

SCHOOLS FIGHT BACK

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SHOULD RHINO BE LEFT IN THE WILD?

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THE OUTING OF ELLEN

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Eurosceptic candidates – not their parties – win The Times vote

The Times today advises voters to support general election candidates who are opposed to further European integration. In a break with recent tradition, the newspaper has decided to refrain from endorsing any of the main parties. Instead it recommends support for the candidates – mainly Conservative and Labour, but including representatives of four other parties – who have declared their Eurosceptic credentials. A list of recommended candidates appeared in the

newspaper yesterday and will be updated on polling day. In a leading article, *The Times* identifies two striking developments of the past Parliament: the transformation of Labour under Tony Blair into an electable party; and the collapse of the "body and spirit" of the Conservative Party. It says of Labour: "The speed of this change – the abandonment of so many anachronistic and disastrous policies in so short a period of time – has been extraordinary. *The Times* has strongly

supported those changes and the way in which they have been made. So great has been the speed of change that faith and imagination, rather than firm policy pronouncements, must form the source of optimism for those millions who intend to vote Labour for the first time this week. *The Times*, however, will not endorse what is "still a tower of dreams". Of the Conservatives, it says: "While Labour has been changing itself, the very momentum of its metamorphosis has

been enough to keep it together. For the Conservatives there has been no equivalent movement to keep the party upright. A tiny mandate from 1992, tightening tensions between Right and Left, reactive leadership and unnecessarily prolonged recession have taken a heavy toll." Because the divisions on Europe are within the parties rather than between them "our endorsement in this election, therefore, falls not on a party slate but upon individual candi-

dates whose European ideals we support... For *The Times* the European future is the fulcrum of public policy. A proper sense of the choices now facing this country, a profound vision of how the current moves to unite Europe could all so easily bring its collapse, a clear-sighted understanding of the gulf between what our partners say, what they mean and what they really want: that is what Britain needs to be able to vote for."

Leading article, page 23

72 hours left to save UK, says Major

By Philip Webster, James Landale and Arthur Leathley

THE Prime Minister issued a warning last night that there were "only 72 hours" to save the United Kingdom. After a whirlwind tour covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, John Major stood outside Parliament to proclaim the "win threat" posed by a Labour government: the break-up of the UK and a sell-out to Europe. It was a carefully stage-managed event and dismissed as a stunt by Labour – which yesterday ordered more than 200 former MPs into marginal constituencies for a final campaigning blitz after Tony Blair cautioned against complacency and insisted that Britain was "not a landslide country". But as Big Ben chimed six, Mr Major said the election was not just about who would govern Britain for the next five years: "It is predominantly a question of what that Government will do over the next five years."

ELECTION '97

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country finds itself dragged inexorably in the direction of a federal Europe." The Tories would "draw a line in the sand" against any further integration, he told staff from the nearby Conservative Central Office. "But if Mr Blair went to Amsterdam, there would be a Dutch auction of British interests, a surrender of our veto." The second threat, he said, came from Labour's plans for devolution to Scotland and Wales. "I have not a shred of doubt that they would lead in the short term to friction with Scotland, and in the slightly longer term, to fracture with Scotland, a break up of Scotland from the United Kingdom."

"The message I would give to you, to the British nation, we have 72 hours to save the Union. 72 hours to make sure that the nature of our government is not changed irrevocably for the worse, with power draining away from Westminster." "There are 72 hours in which to save the Union, 72 hours to make sure that the system of Government that has prevailed in this country for a very long time is protected and enshrined, and not through a combination of thoughtlessness and ill-digested policies, and a failure to understand what these policies mean – not broken up and divided in one direction towards the EU and the other to a devolved Parliament across the United Kingdom." At the same time, Mr Blair and John Prescott were preparing to lead Labour's final onslaught on the marginals. Mr Blair has telephoned each of the party's regional secretaries urging a last effort to ensure the largest possible turn-out on Thursday. Staff



John Major is applauded by Tory Central Office staff as he appears on Abingdon Green outside Parliament to call on to voters "to save Britain"

have been emptying out of the campaign headquarters in Westminster to bolster the fight on the ground. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said it marked the most intensive effort ever mounted by the party in the closing stages of an election. It is the first time that so many former MPs have taken time off from their own constituencies to join the fight in

marginals. "We are fighting for every vote and taking nothing for granted," Mr Brown said. The party had been boosted by the recruitment of 11,000 members and by £3 million in donations from 100,000 people since the campaign began. These have funded a final advertising blitz in tabloid newspapers and women's magazines. If the effort bears fruit and

Mr Blair inflicts a heavy defeat on the Conservatives, Mr Major is expected to announce on Friday that he intends to step down as leader – although his close allies believe that he will stay on until to July to allow an orderly transition to the new leader and avoid an immediate "bloodbath". One told *The Times* yesterday: "John will do what is

right for the party. I do not think he wants John Redwood to win. One way of helping Redwood would be to go early." The candidates would be certain to include Michael Portillo, who today makes one of the most savage Cabinet attacks on Mr Blair since the campaign began and says that people who think the Conservatives need a spell in opposi-

tion are simply wrong. Writing in *The Times*, the Defence Secretary accuses the Labour leader of "looking into the television cameras and lying to the British people about the Government's pension reforms." "Tony Blair's highest aspiration is just to echo what is popular. He is a follower not a leader. That is why he tries to be all things to all men."

Britain ready for Zaire evacuation

Britain prepared for an evacuation of its nationals from Zaire by sending 200 soldiers with three Hercules C130 transport aircraft to central Africa. The Ministry of Defence said the troops would be based in Libreville, the capital of Gabon, to be ready to deploy to Zaire. Refugees found, page 18

Tighter security for the Maze

Stricter security measures are to be imposed inside the Maze prison after a government inquiry into an IRA attempt to tunnel out of the jail found that the paramilitaries controlled the H-blocks. Full searches of the H-blocks are to be made more frequently. Page 2

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'Strictly off-record' Currie submits a £2,000 bill to paper

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

EDWINA CURRIE has sent a £2,000 bill for journalistic services to the newspaper which published her predictions of a Labour landslide. Tory strategists were appalled by Mrs Currie's decision to fax an invoice to Richard Addis, the Editor of *The Express*, only 24 hours after she claimed that her comments in the Sunday edition were off the record. They had spent the last 48 hours assuring journalists that Mrs Currie had been "stitched-up" by the newspaper whose chief executive is Lord Hollick, a Labour peer and close ally of Tony Blair. The remarks appeared in a signed article. The ensuing controversy, which was generated by her blunt criticism of John Major and the Tory campaign, overshadowed the latest Tory attempt to launch a lightbulb. The Prime Minister was reported to be furious. But her attempt to seek payment might not succeed. Mrs Currie never put pen to paper. The offending article was based on a 25-minute telephone conversation with a member of the newspaper's political staff. Mrs Currie, one of the most outspoken pro-European members of the Tory party, warmed to her theme during the conversation about the

failings of the election campaign. Not only did the former Health Minister predict that her own South Derbyshire seat was a lost cause, she also forecast a Labour majority of more than 100 and said that Mr Major looked weak against Tony Blair. Mrs Currie, who for the second day in succession was uncharacteristically unavailable for comment, was virtually disowned by the party high command. Her own supporters, who are fighting an uphill battle to retain her seat, which is number 20 on the Labour target list, were also enraged. One senior Tory campaigner said last night: "Well this gives the lie to the fact her comments were off the record. If she gets the £2,000 I hope she donates it to the redundancy fund of any Tories who lose her seat thanks to her unhelpful comments." Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, speaking in Blackpool yesterday, said: "I have been trying to defend Edwinna on several occasions over the years. I must say I find it difficult on this occasion." Mr Clarke added: "I have heard her explanation that she was speaking off the record. I would prefer that she did not speak like that on or off the record."

Cabbies ride to rescue of colleague

By Adrian Lee

A MINICAB driver's call for help was answered by almost 100 colleagues who formed a cordon in their cars to trap his alleged attackers. The cabbies sprang into action when they heard John Davis broadcast a coded message for assistance in Hull. Scores of cars responded, some carrying passengers, and boxed off the city's North Hull estate, until a police helicopter arrived to search the area. Mr Davis, 32, was allegedly threatened with a machete to the throat and a flick knife, but managed to grab his radio. "It was like the cavalry arriving – it was a great relief," Mr Davis said. "The passengers all joined in the search. There were lasses in their nightgown gear running round helping." Bill Allen, of his company At Cars, said taxi companies in the city set up the coded call system seven years ago, but the response was unprecedented. Two men were arrested after a heat-seeking device on the helicopter discovered them hiding in a garden. The men, aged 19 and 28, were charged with attempted robbery yesterday and remanded in custody.

Cherie Booth to sit as judge two weeks after the election

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

CHERIE BOOTH will sit as a judge within two weeks of becoming the Prime Minister's wife if Labour wins the election on Thursday. In addition, in a clear sign that she intends to continue her career at the Bar, Ms Booth, who is a QC, will next week appear for a local authority in a test case over employees' conditions. Ms Booth, an assistant recorder, is booked to sit for two weeks from May 19 in the City of London and Mayor's Guildhall County Court. She will take the list normally handled by Judge Byrt, QC, which mainly covers personal injury claims and the occasional breach of contract. Thomas Fowles, a court official, said: "These cases normally last about two or three days – you might get someone making a claim over an injury that could affect their future employment, perhaps a traffic accident." He added that the court was not usually attended by the public. An assistant recordership is the first rung on the judicial ladder. Ms Booth must sit for at least 20 weeks a year to fulfil her duties. But Leslie Page, her clerk, confirmed yesterday that, before taking up her judicial appointment, she will be in the Court of Appeal. She is acting for St Helen's Metropolitan Borough Council in a case keenly watched by employment lawyers. The case is being brought by employees in a special school who underwent changes in their conditions of employment when it was taken over from the local county council by the local borough council. Some lawyers question that Ms Booth will be able to sustain her practice at the Bar if she moves to Downing Street. They say she will present problems of security, but Heather Hallett, vice-chairman of the Bar, has strongly defended her. "If anyone can manage it, she can," she said.



"My client would like to add that he voted Labour on May 1"

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Water company sows seeds of drought gardening

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A WATER company that last year suggested its customers should pave over their gardens yesterday launched a cash discount scheme for people buying drought-resistant plants.

Severn Trent, which serves the Midlands, said anyone buying the plants at participating garden centres and nurseries would receive a 10 per cent discount. The offer also covers watering cans — to encourage less reliance on hoses — water retaining granules for pot plants, composters and water butts.

Plants deemed to be drought tolerant include alyssum, sal-

via, sedum, thyme, lavender and wallflowers. Others include ice plant, catmint, aubretia, New Zealand flax, yucca, spanish broom, lamb's ear and rock rose.

Jo Foster, the company's head of customer relations, said yesterday: "Efficient use of water must become second nature for everyone if we want to make hosepipe bans a thing of the past. There are many simple steps we can all take, including having plants which need less watering and less looking after, to help us make the most of every drop."

The company, which is paying for leaflets and informa-

POLLEN INFORMATION LINE OPENS

Two low-pollen gardens were opened yesterday by the National Asthma Campaign. The paved gardens, in Enfield, north London, and Truro, Cornwall, have been planted with insect-pollinated plants such as geraniums, iris and Clematis, and show that it is possible to create a place where hay fever sufferers can be comfortable. The gardens were opened as the charity's pollen information line (0171 971 0444) went into service. This is the first year the charity has operated the service, which has in the past been provided by commercial concerns.

tion packs linked with the promotion, said the suggested plants combined bright colours, strong scents and varied foliage with drought-busting properties.

The scheme is being backed up at 50 garden centres with

practical demonstrations on water conservation in gardens. David Sugden, manager at Bayley's Garden Centre in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, said yesterday that they were drawing up a list of 12 plants and 12 items such as watering

cans to be offered under the discount scheme.

A spokesman for Severn Trent, which serves over seven million customers, pointed out that the discount scheme was only part of its water conservation strategy. He said the company's leakage rate from its mains network was being cut back dramatically. It was spending £400 million a year over the next five years on general improvements and had spent £200 million in the past 18 months on anti-drought measures.

It was also opening up new resources, including boreholes to tap underground reserves in places such as Birmingham, where a decline in heavy

industry had led to a rise in the water table.

Water meters can dramatically cut consumption in better-off households and do not threaten the health of families in poorer households, according to a survey by Mid Kent Water.

It found that people in high rateable value properties, which tend to be homes with large, thirsty gardens and two cars, on average use 36 per cent less water once they are on meters. People living in low rateable value properties first cut back on water use by up to 15 per cent, but eventually increased consumption as they became comfortable with metering.

IRA tunnel blamed on lax security at Maze prison

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

TOUGHER security measures are to be imposed at the Maze prison after a government inquiry into an IRA attempt to tunnel out of the jail found that the paramilitaries controlled the H-blocks.

At Maghaberry jail yesterday, two prisoners armed with a pistol and an improvised handgun held an officer hostage. The discovery that a 9mm millimetre Walther pistol and an improvised "zip gun" plus ammunition had been smuggled into the top-security jail in County Antrim is a further blow to morale within the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Last night the RUC began an investigation into the four-hour incident at Foyle House within Maghaberry prison. Two prisoners seized the of-

ficer as he was escorting them from the health centre.

The inmates, one serving life for murder and the other 25 years for attempted murder, produced the weapons and threatened the officer. They made no clear demands but the incident was believed to be linked to the Irish National Liberation Army.

Finlay Spratt, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association in the Province, claimed that the men fired one of the weapons at staff five times but on each occasion it failed. The two men eventually gave themselves up. The officer was released unharmed.

Within hours, far-reaching measures to tighten security in the H-blocks at the Maze jail were published in a statement. The absence of proper security

and staff from the wings had allowed the IRA to dig a tunnel for 30 metres from a cell in A wing of H-block 7.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, admitted that through intimidation, paramilitary prisoners had, over a number of years, "in effect gained control within the wings to which they were confined". He added: "Recently, searches have been carried out only infrequently."

The IRA had broken through a concrete floor, dug through a metre of hardcore and infill and then tunnelled at a depth of two metres. They had used tools and materials improvised from cell furniture and handicraft materials.

"Spoils were deposited in two cells at the end of the wing. Prisoners were able to achieve all of this because of the effective absence of staff from the wings, and the steps which prisoners had taken to obscure the line of sight down the wings," Sir Patrick said.

The report into the discovery last month of the escape attempt calls for twice-daily lock-ups of prisoners with head-counts; random cell checks, including the examination of the fabric of the cell; and a purposeful staff presence on all wings.

Full searches of the H-blocks are to be held frequently and unpredictably and strict controls to be imposed on prisoners' movements. Any prisoner moving between an H-block is to be searched.

Supplies issued to wings should be strictly checked, the report says, and cell furniture to be made of soft materials to prevent terrorists adapting furniture for illicit purposes. The report also recommends the improvement of closed-circuit television.

Loyalist paramilitaries are being blamed for a 100lb bomb found outside the Sinn Féin offices in Belfast.

The device, containing home-made explosives, was found in an abandoned car on the Falls Road. The alert was raised at 7am yesterday when a local radio station received a telephone warning. Army bomb disposal experts carried out two controlled explosions.

Army doctor 'gave wrong advice on Down's test'

By Emma Wilkins

A WOMAN gave birth to a Down's syndrome baby after a military doctor wrongly advised her against a diagnostic test, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Sandra Hurley, 42, from Aldershot, Hampshire, feared that her child would be born handicapped because she was aged 35 at the time. She agreed not to have an amniocentesis test when Major Lawrence Roberts of the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, told her that the risks of handicap were the same as when she was aged 25 and that the procedure carried a 1 per cent chance of miscarriage, the court was told.

Mrs Hurley, who is divorced with two other children aged 22 and 10, is claiming damages for medical negligence against the Ministry of Defence. While she adores her son, Matthew, 7, the burden of caring for him is immense. Richard Davies, QC, told the court: "Love and devotion cannot obscure the enormous burden to her of his profound disability." Mr Davies said.

Mrs Hurley, a civilian, asked Major Roberts — then a trainee in obstetrics and gynaecology — about an amniocentesis test which detects Down's syndrome at 16 weeks of pregnancy at her first consultation in January 1990. "Having pressed her preference by saying she would prefer to take the risk of



Sandra Hurley leaving the High Court yesterday

abortion, she acknowledged that the doctor was the expert," Mr Davies said.

He said medical experts would be called to establish that there is a three times greater risk of having a Down's syndrome baby at 35 than 25.

While Major Roberts cannot remember the precise de-

tails of the conversation he explained that it was not general hospital policy to consider amniocentesis for women aged 35, the court was told. It is considered at the hospital for those aged 37 to 39 and automatically offered to pregnant women aged 40 and above.

The case continues.

Grandmother of Ecstasy girl questions transplant decision

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE grandmother of a 15-year-old Ecstasy user who died after she was refused a liver transplant questioned the decision to give an alcoholic footballer two liver transplants on the National Health Service.

Margaret Pirie, 56, told a fatal accident inquiry into the death of her grand-daughter, Michelle Paul, that she had become angry when doctors had told her that Michelle would not receive the £60,000

operation. Without the operation the schoolgirl would die, her family had been told.

Mrs Pirie, a former auxiliary nurse, told the court in Aberdeen that she had questioned one of the members of the medical team at the liver transplant unit in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary about the decision to give Jim Baxter, a former Rangers and Scotland footballer and self-confessed alcoholic, two liver transplants when Michelle could not get one.

She said Dr Nail Finlayson had told her the decision had

been made "on moral grounds" by Hilary Sanley, who was a surgeon and the senior member of the team. The inquiry has previously heard that Michelle had admitted taking drugs and her mother, Carolann Paul, 37, had been a drug addict. Her stepfather, John Paul, was in prison for drug-related offences at the time of her death.

Michelle died 23 days after taking Ecstasy at a rave in Aberdeen in November 1995. Her death came a week after that of Leah Betts. The inquiry continues.

BSE scientists to test Norwegian dog brain

Government veterinary scientists are to examine brain tissue from a Norwegian golden retriever in what may be the first proven case of "mad cow" disease in a dog. Ministry of Agriculture officials confirmed yesterday that samples of brain material from the 11-year-old animal, which died this month, had been received from Norway and had been sent to the Institute of Animal Health in Edinburgh for analysis.

Vets in Oslo suspect BSE-type changes. The Kennel Club and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals yesterday criticised the Government for failing to publish research carried out six years ago which suggested that dogs might be able to contract "mad cow" disease.

Haughey case adjourns

The Dublin tribunal investigating payments to politicians adjourned yesterday without Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister, answering allegations that he received £1.3 million from a supermarket tycoon, Ben Dunne, the former head of Dunnes Stores chain of supermarkets, said he paid Mr Haughey £1.3 million through banks in London, the Isle of Man and the Cayman Islands. Mr Haughey has not answered any of the allegations made by Mr Dunne.

BA awaits Paris ruling

British Airways will learn today whether its court effort to prevent Air Algérie operating from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris has been successful. BA yesterday argued at a court in Versailles that its passengers were being put at risk because of a lack of security around the Algerian state airline check-in desks. When Air Algérie moved into neighbouring desks at the weekend, BA moved its check-in to the roof of the terminal, then to a hotel.

Wren strangled

A Royal Navy Wren was found strangled yesterday in a flat at Stonehouse, Plymouth, a few hundred yards from her base at HMS Drake. Leading Wren Tammy Williams, 23, originally from Leicestershire, was a photographer for operational work and public relations. It is thought that Miss Williams, who had worked at the Devonport base since January, lived outside the base. Police arrested a man aged 30, who was being questioned by detectives last night.

Judges make Net gain

Court of Appeal judges have used the Internet to issue a ruling in an attempt to overcome difficulties arising from more than 100 appeals from people who say their cases have been wrongly struck off court lists for not meeting strict timetables. The judges criticised having to post copies of their 75-page judgment to all 500 judges in England and Wales because the Government has not set up a computer system by which judgments could be issued electronically.

Soul singer fined

The soul singer Mark Morrison, right, was fined £750 after admitting threatening behaviour against a group of people he claimed had kicked his car in Leicester city centre. The magistrates' chairman, Harold Clark, said: "With fame comes a responsibility to behave in a proper manner." The court was told that Morrison, 24, had a living allowance of £1,200 a month from his record company.



BBC apologises for libel

The multimillionaire Barclay brothers accepted a public apology from the broadcaster John Sweeney and the BBC over a suggestion that their concern for privacy was explained by an alleged involvement in a 1970s corruption scandal. David and Frederick Barclay, who live on Breechou in the Channel Islands, had sued for libel over a radio report. They were content with the apology and a BBC donation to the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children.

Tortoise returns home

An elderly widow praised police yesterday after they reunited her with a tortoise that has been her companion for 20 years. Alice Ward, 83, found the tortoise, called Humphrey, was missing after a street vendor called at her home in Gundle, Northamptonshire, last Thursday. Three days later a police officer in Nottingham, 90 miles away, recognised Humphrey after he had been found in a bag.

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Singer



Boy George said the attraction was instant



Four Queens

National

THE QUEEN'S... have to put up with the... because of the... decision to... land from the... The hunt... yesterday... been the... year history... licensed to... owned... Hills in... with... with... with...

Boy, 14, left scarred by his father's beatings

By Alan Hamilton

A BOY... after being... pest... throat... college... old... Crown... forced... to his father... rubber shower... The... the... denies three... full... 1994... one severe... "I was... the... London... I should... shut... the... the... me.

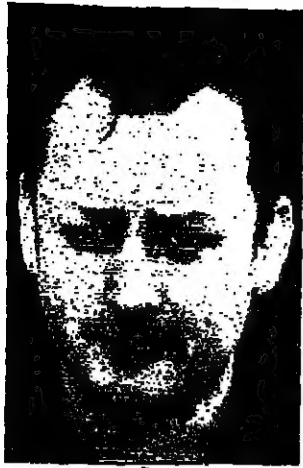
After the... was told to... and... the police... of the... When... what he... of his... live with... he had... he was... he was... The father... he had... won... The trial continues.

Intruder

By Alan Hamilton

POLICE were last night... man who... security... an unauthorised... gardens... Neither... nor... claims that he... the Queen's... was... after... Lock in... driver what he had done... the police... With the general election...

Singer accuses Boy George of being obsessive liar



Boy George said the attraction was instant

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE singer Boy George was accused in the High Court yesterday of being an obsessive and vindictive liar by the man he had earlier described as the love of his life.

Kirk Brandon told the 35-year-old pop star that he was a "professional liar" who had tried to destroy him by claiming that their friendship in the 1980s had been a sexual relationship.

He accused the former lead singer of Culture Club of being obsessed with trying to "out" him as a homosexual even though he was happily married with a daughter. Mr

Brandon, 40, from East Dulwich, London, is suing Boy George for malicious falsehood in a 1995 autobiography in which George wrote: "Sleeping with Kirk wasn't sex, it was absolute love." He is also suing Boy George over a song, called *Unfinished Business*, on his last album.

Mr Brandon, 40, has admitted sharing a bed with Boy George after going to late-night clubs in the early 1980s but denies that homosexual activity took place.

Mr Brandon, who is representing himself, said: "I put it to you that you were obsessed, have been obsessed and probably still are obsessed with

me. Have you ever thought about stopping, leaving me alone?" Boy George replied: "I wouldn't describe myself as obsessed with you. I said in my book that you were very talented and I loved you. Where is the damage in that?"

Mr Brandon, who enjoyed chart success with the bands Theatre of Hate and Spear of Destiny, questioned him about *Unfinished Business*. "Did you enjoy writing such a vindictive and malicious song?" Boy George replied: "You were in a band called Theatre of Hate. Kirk. You weren't called the Blushing Flowers. What does that say?" Earlier, giving evidence,

Boy George told Mr Justice Douglas Brown that Mr Brandon had become the "great love of my life" after they met in a pub in 1980. "I didn't know who he was but I thought he was really handsome, very charming and funny, one of those people you meet and instantly become friends with. I was sexually attracted from the moment I saw him and I knew Kirk was attracted to me instantly."

After a few weeks Mr Brandon asked to stay at his squat, Boy George said. On the first night they kept their T-shirts and underwear on but hugged and kissed, he said, but after that their relationship grew

into a sexual one and they had spent more than 100 nights together.

He said: "Kirk was the great love of my life at that time. We were inseparable. We held hands in public. At the time I was walking around in high-heeled shoes and very outrageous clothes. I was very well known in London."

Their friendship ended after a night out when Boy George was dressed as Boadicea. "Kirk said he needed space away from me. We had a violent argument. He left and I smashed up my room." They resumed their relationship for a short time, he said, but then did not see each other

for several years. Boy George said he had described Mr Brandon as his boyfriend in several articles and had not received complaints. He said he had written asking Mr Brandon if he wanted to make comments about his autobiography but had received no feedback.

He told his counsel, Patrick Maloney, that he wrote *Unfinished Business* when he learnt that Mr Brandon had married. "I was expressing my true feelings about Kirk. He has denied our relationship for 20 years. If there was no relationship, then why are we in court 20 years later fighting about it?" The case continues.



Brandon denies that friendship was sexual



Four Quantock staghounds wait to be let loose at the season's last formal meet yesterday. The hunt will now not be able to use National Trust land in the Quantock Hills

National Trust ban may spell staghounds' death

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE Quantock Staghounds may have to put down 60 hounds because of the National Trust's decision to ban stag-hunting on its land from the end of this month.

The hunt, which killed one deer yesterday in what may well have been the last formal meet in its 90-year history, will go, longer be licensed to use 900 acres of trust-owned country in the Quantock Hills in north Somerset, leaving it with insufficient land to hunt regu-

larly. Roly Ford, the hunt chairman, said: "We have got 60 hounds between two and seven years old and we fear we may end up having to put them down, but we will be fighting to avoid this if at all possible."

"Staghounds are trained to follow a deer's scent and it is highly unlikely they could be retrained to hunt foxes. Nor would they make good pets, as they are pack animals which have lived in kennels all their lives. If they have to be put down, it would probably be with a pistol."

The Quantock Staghounds, which has up to 100 riders and 700

followers, met yesterday on the lawns of Bagborough House, near Taunton, where presentations were made to loyal hunt servants. The deer-hunting season ends at the end of April and resumes in August.

Mr Ford said the hunt committee had not yet decided whether the Quantock Staghounds would give up hunting completely. "We may still be able to hunt occasionally — if the Devon and Somerset Staghounds invite us to use their territory — but certainly not twice a week, as in the past. The trust land we have been banned from is in five separate

blocks, fragmenting our hunting territory and making it unusable."

Bill Fewings, the master of the Quantock, who has hunted for 50 years, said he saw little hope of the hunt being saved. The hunt says that there will now be indiscriminate shooting of red deer by landowners, who had previously relied on the hunt to control deer numbers.

But John Hicks, of International Animal Rescue, said: "It has been one of the greatest days of my life. The deer have gone through terrible suffering. They would be better off being shot out of existence than

undergoing the horrendous suffering if hunting continued."

The trust decided on the ban in response to a two-year inquiry by Professor Patrick Bateson, an animal behaviour expert at Cambridge University. He found that hunted deer suffered even greater stress than severely injured animals.

The ban also covers 12,000 acres used by the Devon and Somerset Staghounds and some 400 acres used by the Tiverton Staghounds. The New Forest Buckhounds will lose about 370 acres. They plan to continue on non-trust land.

Girlfriend hit Bondi 'killer' with handbag

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE girlfriend of Brian Hagland, the London postman beaten to death near Bondi Beach last year, tried to save him by hitting his attacker with her handbag, a Sydney court was told yesterday.

Twice Connie Casey struck Aaron Martin over the head, but he simply looked up and continued the assault, the court was told. The attack was recounted during the prosecution's opening statement at coronial proceedings against Mr Martin, 23, who is accused of murder, and Sean Cushman, who is charged with being an accessory.

Chris Maxwell, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hagland, 28, had been walking home with Miss Casey, 25, in the early hours of September 7 when Mr Martin set upon him. He said the accused was drunk and in a mood of explosive physical aggression. "He was looking for someone to take it out upon," Mr Maxwell said.

Mr Martin, waving his clenched fists at Mr Hagland, shouted: "Come on then!" Mr Hagland replied that he did not want trouble.

As Mr Martin started to hit him they fell onto the road, wrestling. At one stage Mr Martin had his hands around Mr Hagland's throat and seemed to be strangling him, the court was told. While Miss

Casey tried to separate them by hitting Mr Martin with her handbag, he continued to punch Mr Hagland.

The exact circumstances of what happened next were still unclear, Mr Maxwell said, but at some stage Mr Hagland was hit by a passing bus as it turned a corner. The prosecution said that, in the struggle, Mr Hagland may have walked or fallen into the side of the bus; he may have been savagely beaten and fallen into the path of the bus unconscious; or he may have been pushed into the bus.

A post-mortem examination found that Mr Hagland, who was on a working holiday, had suffered multiple injuries. He also sustained numerous fractures consistent with the impact of the bus or having being jumped upon.

"The Crown says he [Martin] caused the death of Mr Hagland and that at all times had the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm or to kill him," Mr Maxwell said. "It doesn't matter how much or how little the bus was involved, there was a causal link between the defendant's action and the death of the deceased."

The court was also told that Mr Cushman had allegedly told friends that Mr Martin had pushed Mr Hagland into the side of the bus.

The trial continues.

Boy, 14, left scarred by his father's beatings

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY was scarred for life after being repeatedly whipped, punched, kicked and throttled by his father, a college lecturer. The 14-year-old boy told Southwark Crown Court he would be forced to lie naked on his bed as his father beat him with a rubber shower hose.

The boy was giving evidence at the trial of his father, who denies three charges of unlawful wounding and one of cruelty between September 1994 and last August. During one severe beating last August "I was begging him to stop", the boy, from Brixton, south London, said. "But he told me I should not scream. He then shut and locked the window so the neighbours could not hear me."

After this incident, the boy was told to get out of the flat and ran away. When the police found him he told them of the alleged cruelty.

When his father, 42, learnt what he had done, he spoke of handing out "the beating of my life", which left him so scared he felt he could never live with his father again, the boy said. A teacher to whom he had described his ordeals contacted social services and he was taken into care.

The father told police that he had tried to "chastise" his son. The trial continues.

Abuse victims see couple's downfall after 20 years

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AN ELDERLY couple who abused frightened youngsters at a children's home 20 years ago were sent to prison yesterday. Many of the victims wept while describing the ordeals of their childhood in court.

Joyce Beesley, 70, was jailed for five years at Liverpool Crown Court, convicted of cruelty to 13 children. Her husband, Kenneth, 73, found guilty of ill treating one child and indecently assaulting four girls, was given 2½ years.

The offences spanned 13 years, ending in 1978. Beesley had been employed by the city council as house-mother at the six-bedroom home in Fazakerley. Her husband, lived there *de facto* as the house father.

Punishments for minor misdemeanours such as looking out of the window included being made to cut the grass with scissors, and having to stand naked for hours with their hands on their heads while others were encouraged to ridicule them.

One boy was left sitting in a chair in the garden all day until sunburnt and blistered. Red-wetting was punished by being tied or pinned into a pillowcase and left on the floor or bed. The indecent assaults involved three girls, aged between 11 and 14. One of them was abused two or three times

a week for several months. The children spent much of their time sitting in a cold, spartan dining room, where they had poor, inadequate food. The wife, described as the dominant personality, sent children to buy good food but that was for the couple and their own two children. One hungry girl ate toothpaste.

Children were not allowed out of their secured bedrooms at night, even to go to the lavatory. Potties were left in the rooms, even for teenagers.

Jailing the couple, from Walton, Liverpool, Judge Elizabeth Steel said the offences had been systematic and created an "atmosphere of fear". The children were "among the most vulnerable members of society — they were in care because of troubled family backgrounds, needing stability, care, understanding and a happy loving atmosphere."

Judge Steel, who recommended the two investigating detectives for a formal commendation, said that the children had instead suffered nightmares, guilt, anger, distress and mental health problems.

After the hearing one victim, Paul Taylor, 41, from Oldham, said he was delighted with the sentences: "It's more than I expected but it's no more than they deserve."

Wife killed husband in argument over lettuce

By RICHARD DUCE

A MOTHER stabbed her husband through the heart after he complained about the quality of the lettuce in a salad for their evening meal. They had been married for 29 years.

Brenda Richardson, 54, a Sunday school teacher, was jailed for two years for manslaughter yesterday, after Manchester Crown Court was told that she had no recollection of events that led to the fatal dispute other than her husband, Brian, 56, criticising the lettuce leaves.

Howard Bentham, QC, for the prosecution, said there were no known problems in the marriage. The couple from Nelson, Lancashire, had two grown-up sons. In telephone calls to friends an hour before the killing, Richardson had been "jovial and light-hearted".

She had called the emergency services and tried to stem the bleeding with a rug. Her plea of not guilty to murder was accepted.

Richard Henriques, QC, for the defence, said: "There must have been a great deal of cumulative tension in the relationship. There was a major disagreement, out of the blue, over the food that night, but all she is sure of is that she did not take up the knife intending to use it. She misses him dreadfully."

Intruder claims he had free Palace tour

By ALAN HAMILTON

POLICE were last night questioning a man who claimed to have breached security at Buckingham Palace and made an unauthorised tour of the private gardens.

Neither palace officials nor police were certain whether to believe the man's claims that he had spent several hours roaming the heavily guarded grounds of the Queen's official London residence. He was arrested early yesterday morning after reportedly hailing a taxi to Camden Lock in north London and telling the driver what he had done. The driver contacted the police.

With the general election three days

away and a spate of IRA bomb threats on their mind, police took the matter seriously, especially as the man was allegedly allowed in to the Palace on legitimate business and shown out by police officers at the main gate who bade him a polite "Good morning".

Neither the Queen nor the Duke of Edinburgh was in residence. If the man's claims are true, he joins a long line of palace intruders, led by Michael Fagan, who found his way into the Queen's bedroom in 1982, spoke to her while she frantically and fruitlessly tried to summon help, and provoked a major review of Palace security.

Since then Palace-busting, often by the deranged or obsessed, has grown in

popularity. In 1993 a group of lesbian anti-nuclear demonstrators scaled the walls and barbed wire with ladders, and sat on the palace lawn singing and chanting before armed police rounded them up. The following year, a naked American paragon braved chilly February weather to land on the roof. In 1995 a Wakefield man was given two years' probation after driving 200 miles from his Yorkshire home to ram the Palace gates, causing significant damage.

But one intruder remains undetected. Early last year an urban fox slunk past police, guardsmen and security cameras to enter the gardens, where it killed the Queen's nine lamingtons. The beast has never been apprehended.

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GREAT BRITAIN CURRENTLY RANKS 42ND IN THE WORLD EDUCATION LEAGUE. DISCUSS.

This is the statistic John Major didn't want you to see. The World Education League judges countries on how their education system meets the needs of a competitive economy. It shows that Britain's children are not being educated to the standards of other countries. Currently we lag behind Taiwan, The Philippines and Colombia. Government underfunding has led to teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and thousands of children sharing books. No wonder more than 48,000 children failed to pass a single GCSE exam in 1996. Britain deserves better. If these statistics make you cross, you know where to put that cross on polling day.

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Confusion over tuning hits Channel 5 figures

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 5 is reaching less than half the country, despite promises at its launch four weeks ago that at least 60 per cent of the population would be able to watch it.

The new station's own research shows that only half the people who should be able to receive Channel 5 have tuned their television sets to its frequencies. Where people have tuned in, many are still faced with pictures and sound of such poor quality that they would rather not watch at all.

David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5, conceded that the station's average share of weekly viewing, at 2.8 per cent, was lower than the 3 per cent it had expected by now. It is aiming to reach 5 per cent by the end of the year. "We have conducted extensive surveys and, on the evidence we have got so far, about 50 per cent of the population seems to have tuned into us — it's 5 per cent lower than we thought we would be."

He added that many viewers appeared to have confused tuning in with retuning. Be-

fore the station was launched, video and satellite equipment had to be retuned in about ten million homes that might have suffered signal interference. Retuners routinely tuned people's television sets to receive Channel 5.

Many people who had not received a retuning visit, because interference was not a problem in their area, may not realise that they still needed to tune their sets to Channel 5 if they want to watch it.

Mr Elstein said: "It is 15 years since the last terrestrial channel was launched in the United Kingdom and many people buy preset televisions, so it is not surprising that they

don't know how to tune in their sets."

Channel 5 will be launching a big marketing campaign to inform people of the need to tune their sets. Advertisements for big programmes, such as its exclusive live coverage of England's football match against Poland on May 31, will carry a reminder that people will need to tune in.

It is still unknown exactly how many homes will suffer poor reception. The Confederation of Aerial Industries has estimated that up to three million homes may need new aerials, costing from £40 to £150 each, in order to receive Channel 5 clearly. Mr Elstein

denied reports that the station was considering subsidising the costs of new booster aerials.

He added that at least 2.3 million people would benefit from clearer pictures when Channel 5 switched on nine new transmitters across the country in July.

Bill Barker, broadcast director of the media agency J. Walter Thompson, said that advertisers were disappointed with the station's performance and were anxious about poor reception putting people off watching. The one good thing to come from all this is that it is pushing Channel 5 to invest more in programming, such as films and sports, than it had originally planned in order to persuade people it is worthwhile tuning in.

Mr Barker added that, at present, Channel 5's top performing programmes were films, which were getting audiences of one million to 2.8 million. "The big challenge for Channel 5 will be for them to increase their audiences for things such as the soap and the news," he said.

FILMS LEAD THE RATINGS

The Broadcast Audience Research Board says that eight out of Channel 5's top ten performing programmes for the week ending on April 13 were feature films. Only four films, *Highlander*, *Punchline*, *Trapped and Deceived* and *This Boy's Life*, attracted more than one million viewers. The most successful screening has been *Mrs Doubtfire*, with 2.85 million viewers, on Sunday, April 6. Advertisers are concerned about the relatively weak performance of the rest of the channel's programming, particularly its soap opera, *Family Affairs*, which has audiences hovering around the 500,000-600,000 mark.

Rare rhinos arrive for breeding programme

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TWO wild Asian rhinos from Nepal are due in Britain today for an international captive breeding programme at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in Bedfordshire.

The two females, aged 14 to 16 months old, are from the Royal Chitwan National Park, where government wildlife staff, in collaboration with conservation groups including the World Wide Fund for Nature, have managed to boost the population of Asian, or one-horned, rhinos from 40 in 1975 to almost 500.

Simon Tonge, senior curator at London Zoo, said: "Basle Zoo has been very successful at breeding one-horned rhinos over the past 30 to 40 years, but there are now a lot of the 150 animals in captivity related to the so-called Basle line. We need some wild animals to improve the genetic variation."

The only other place in which the animals are found are the swampy grasslands of



Worldwide there are fewer than 2,000 Asian rhinos, which are killed for their horns

India, mainly in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. Worldwide there are fewer than 2,000 Asian rhinos. The main threat is from poachers, keen to kill them for their horns, which are used as aphrodisiacs in the Far East. In the Yemen, the horns are carved for daggers.

Whipsnade, which, with London Zoo, is owned by the Zoological Society of London, has a female and a male one-horned rhino. Another, their son, is at Chester Zoo.

Richard Burge, director general of the Zoological Society, said: "These animals will remain the property of the

Kingdom of Nepal and their loan is a magnificent statement of confidence and trust from the people of Nepal to the society. These precious and unique animals will enable the UK to contribute significantly to the conservation of a rare species and its fragile habitat."

City rustlers keep lambs on allotment

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE have returned a two-week-old lamb found wandering the streets of Sunderland to the North Yorkshire farm 50 miles away from which it had been taken.

Lambs are being stolen by urban rustlers from their unfenced pastures and reared in the unlikely setting of council allotments. After six months they are slaughtered, either for the rustler's freezer or for sale from a car boot.

With prime lambs fetching up to £80 each, rustling can be lucrative. Two years ago farmers in upland North Yorkshire lost 3,000 lambs in one season. They have lost 23 in the past month. Owners have now set

up Operation Sheepwatch. Brian Cook, one of its organisers, said: "Urban rustlers are a problem and I would urge anyone in a town who suddenly notices a lamb in the yard or allotment next door to contact us or the police. If the lamb has been bought genuinely as a pet at an auction mart, the owner will have a receipt."

"We take it in turns driving around the area, looking out for anything suspicious, and we have contact numbers if there are any reports of poachers." The lambs have numbers and ear tags identifying the farm they come from.

Alan Bainbridge, of Middleton, from whose farm the lamb found in Sunderland was stolen, said: "The people who take these lambs are idiots. They will waste away without a mother and proper feed. It's hard enough to rear them on a farm, let alone in someone's back yard."

Tony Lidgate, spokesman for North Yorkshire Police, said: "Operation Sheepwatch has proved very successful, although rustling is still a problem, with £100,000 worth of sheep being stolen in the county each year. Large-scale rustlers will turn up with a truck and two dogs, but the mere presence of farmers and police patrolling the moors is often enough to put them off."



Alan Bainbridge with his returned lamb

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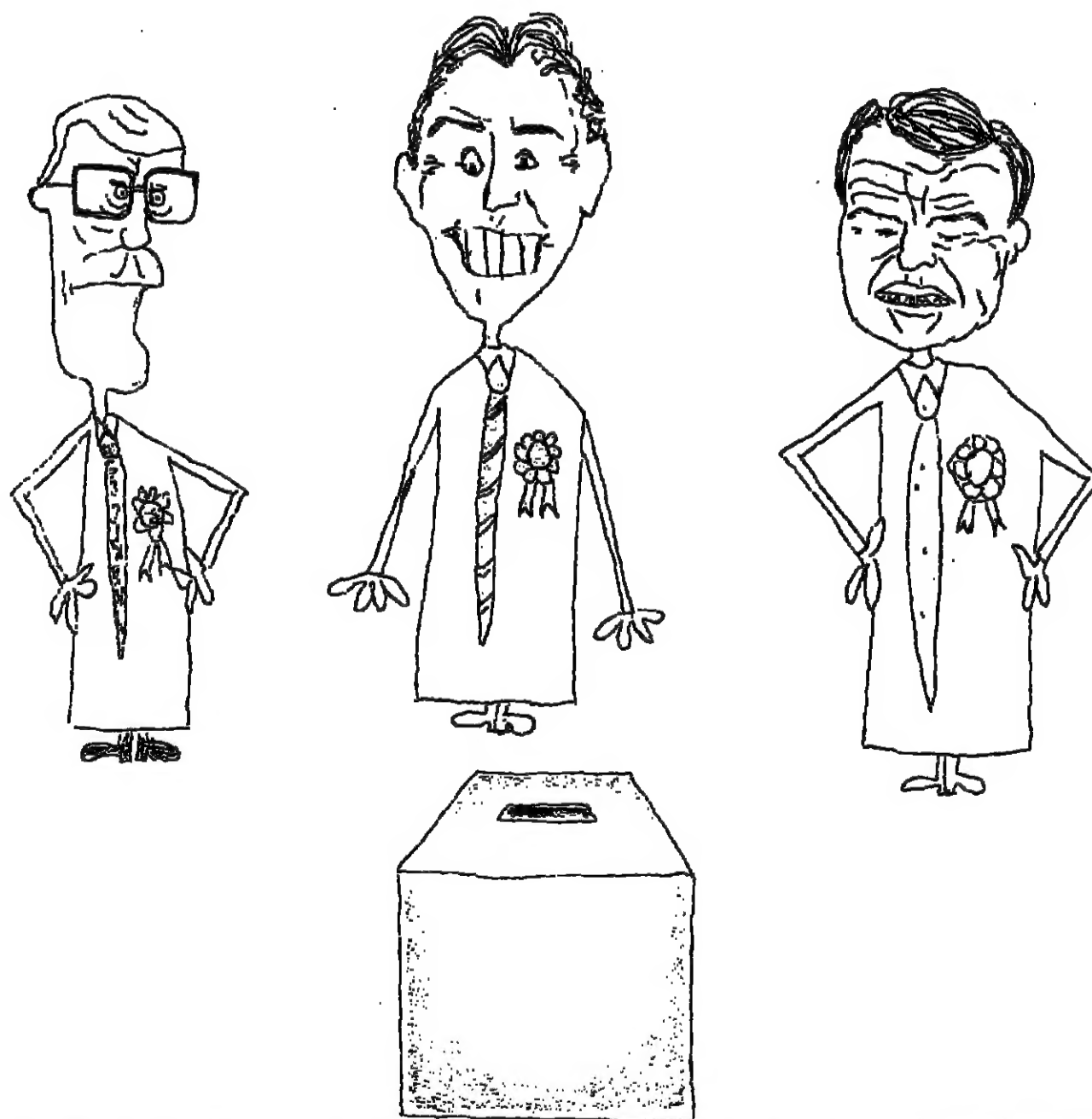
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You can be sure I will think first of the victims of crime and take repeat offenders off the streets.

You can be sure I will provide the money for more police to keep us safer on the streets.

You can be sure I will improve our National Health Service, freely available to all, with more money year by year.

You can be sure I will always protect the state retirement pension and offer dignity and security to the elderly.

You can be sure I will govern for everyone.

On Thursday, be sure you mark your cross where you know you can place your trust.

You can be sure I will be true to Britain.

John Major

Son m to pay care,

By [unclear]
A MAN who has spent his life looking after his mother must sell his home to pay for her care, the Times learned yesterday. The man, who is now 70, means that he will have to move back to his home to look after her. He is at risk of losing his home if he does not move into his home.

The ruling on the rights of a son to keep his mother in his home has been made by the House of Lords. However, the ruling is not binding on the courts. The House of Lords is made up of the King, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the 26 members of the House of Lords. The ruling is a landmark decision in the history of the law.

The case is known as *Harcombe v. Harcombe*. It involves a son who has spent his life looking after his mother. He has now reached the age of 70 and his mother is 85. He is at risk of losing his home if he does not move into his home.

The ruling is a landmark decision in the history of the law. It is a decision that will have a major impact on the lives of many people.

Vicar's v taking t

By Ruth Gifford, BBC
A TENTH of the clergy in England and Wales are taking part in a protest against the proposed changes to the law on the ordination of women as priests, the Times has learned. The protest is being organized by the Clergy Association of England and Wales. The association is a body that represents the interests of the clergy in England and Wales. It is a body that has been active in the past in opposing the proposed changes to the law on the ordination of women as priests.

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Son must sell home to pay for mother's care, judge rules

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who gave up his job to look after his ailing mother must sell his home to pay for her care, the High Court ruled yesterday. The landmark ruling means that people who move back to the family home to look after someone who is ill risk losing the roof over their heads if the sick relative has to move into residential care.

The ruling does not affect the rights of a husband or wife to keep their home if their spouse has to go into care. However, anyone else, including children, who live in a house caring for sick relatives are covered by the ruling. Help the Aged received 3,000 inquiries last year from carers in this predicament.

The test case involved David Harcombe, 52, who emigrated to Australia in 1976 to become a social worker. In 1991 he returned to Britain to look after his mother, Faith, who had suffered from Parkinson's disease and had been forced to leave her four-bedroom house at Watchet in Somerset and go into care.

Because her son could look after her, she was able to move back to her house, but in 1993 she suffered a series of strokes

which meant she needed full-time care again and moved to a residential home in Minehead. Her income was £500 a month short of the fees, and Somerset County Council decided that her home must be sold to meet the difference.

The council refused to exercise the discretion it has to allow Mrs Harcombe's son to keep the home, partly because he returned to Australia in March 1994 to resume his career. However, he soon gave this up and returned to Somerset. He is now unemployed.

The council agreed that as long as he lived in the house it would not force him to sell, although it continued to claim £500 a month for the care.

His mother died ten days ago, aged 85, with the outstanding bill at £25,000. Interest will now start to accrue on it. Mrs Harcombe's estate is to be divided between her son and his sister, Ann, but the longer the bill is unpaid the less money will be left for them.

Mr Justice Forbes said there was nothing unreasonable in the council's approach. "I have decided that the value of the house should not be disre-

garded because it would not be reasonable to do so in all the circumstances."

It was central to the case that Mr Harcombe returned to Australia in an attempt to re-establish his career. This meant that his current occupation of the house was not attributable to any need for him to care for his mother. "Rather it is attributable to his own decision to give up his job and accommodation in Australia," the judge said.

He agreed that the council was right in deciding not to enforce the charge over Mrs Harcombe's home and sell it while her son still lived there. That was in recognition of his emotional attachment to the property and the support he had given to his mother in her final years. But the concession would give no rights to anyone else who lived there.

The judge adjourned the question of who should pay the action's heavy legal costs.

Wilde to hold forth with weary passers-by

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MONUMENT to Oscar Wilde, showing his head and a cigarette-clad hand rising from a granite sarcophagus, has been commissioned from one of Britain's leading artists, Maggi Hambling, to mark next month's centenary of his release from Reading Gaol.

The idea was proposed by the film director Derek Jarman shortly before his death in 1994. A committee, including the actress Dame Maggie Smith, the director Sir Richard Eyre and the poet Seamus Heaney, was subsequently set up to raise the estimated £175,000 needed for the project.

Ms Hambling, seeking to reflect Wilde's wit and sense of the ridiculous, produced an image of him talking, laughing and smoking at one end of the sarcophagus, allowing the passer-by to sit at the other end and hold a conversation with him.

"There are three elements," she said. "The sarcophagus,



The granite and bronze monument by Maggi Hambling allows people to sit on one end and address Wilde

Wilde and whoever sits down on it." Maquettes, drawings and paintings for the work will be exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery next month, before the monument is erected in Adelaide Street, near Trafalgar Square.

Wilde's grandson, Martin Holland, said: "Oscar seems

to be in full conversational flow. It's quite intimate. You feel almost as if he's talking to you. It's got wit and is entirely in keeping with his character."

He said that Wilde—whose trial and conviction in 1895 for homosexual offences scandalised Victorian society—

would have been amused by the whiff of controversy about it. "Westminster council has given its permission but eyebrows were raised about the slightly unusual look. When it's explained to people, they smile. It's going to cause a few comments. Oscar once said that there was only one thing

worse than being talked about — not being talked about." The concept, Ms Hambling explained, was inspired by a line from *Lady Windermere's Fan*: "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." It will be among several Wilde quotes to appear on the piece.

Vicar's wives are taking the cloth

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A TENTH of the Church of England's clergy are women, and in some dioceses the proportion is as high as one in five, according to a survey published yesterday. More than 300 are married to clergymen.

The survey by the National Association of Diocesan Advisers in Women's Ministry covers the two years after the ordination of the first women priests in England in March 1994, and shows how quickly the change has spread in many areas, although pockets of traditionalist resistance remain.

By the end of July 1996, there were 1,957 women in licensed ministry in the 43 dioceses. Most are middle-aged, with relatively few below 40 or over 60 years old.

More than 200 are in "sector" ministries, working as chaplains at hospitals, prisons, universities, colleges and in industry. Six out of ten

are married, 306 to clergymen.

The diocese with the largest number of women priests is Oxford, with 101, followed closely by Southwark, with 91, and St Albans, with 80. At the opposite end of the scale are Sodor and Man, which has one; Blackburn and Bradford, with 14 each; and Truro with 15.

The survey destroys the myth that most ordained women are working in part-time or unpaid posts. Fewer than one third of those in active ministry were non-stipendiary, while about half of the total had full-time, stipendiary jobs, with 382 women enjoying the protection of the "person's freehold" in incumbencies, or working as team vicars or priest-in-charge.

Canon Christine Farrington, chair of the national association and a priest in Cambridge, said: "We believe the figures from some dioceses are very heartening."

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ELECTION 97

POLL DAY

-2

Pass the sickbag, Paddy
- Paddy Ashdown's
flying campaign

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TIMES guide
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History
repeats itself

Bellingham and Spencer Perceval

Damian Whitworth - page 15

Nervous Labour dares to relax

Blair's team
has learned to
laugh off mishaps
which used to
throw it into
a rage, writes
Ben Macintyre

IN Nottingham, the backdrop of Labour campaign posters behind Tony Blair slowly disintegrated in mid-press-conference as the cameras rolled; in Loughborough the Labour leader was hit by a well-aimed apple core, the first flying fruit of the election; in Leicester Town Hall square he was loudly and persistently heckled by a man sitting high in a tree and demanding that he "tax the rich".

Three weeks ago, this succession of embarrassments would have sent the Blair spin-doctors into a splenetic rage. But the Labour campaign is no longer the brittle and nervous thing it was, for a perceptible whiff of imminent victory is already emanating from the Blair camp, despite strenuous efforts to suppress it.

The visible hardening of the jaw to which Mr Blair is prone in times of stress has gone; instead he wears the unmistakable, slightly guilty demeanour of a boy who knows what he is getting for Christmas but doesn't want to spoil the surprise by letting it be known that he knows.

He is indiscriminately benevolent. With a smile, he thanked whoever had inexpertly tacked up the campaign posters in Nottingham's Central TV studios; there was another vote of thanks and a grin for whoever tossed the remains of his apple on the playing fields of Loughborough University, catching Mr Blair on the arm. He was even grateful for the vociferous interruptions from the Leicester tree-dweller wearing the strange Inca hat.

"Thanks very much," said Mr Blair, like Bruce Forsyth camping it up for the studio audience.

Instead of trading wordless reprimands, as before, the Labour aides now exchange winks and nudges. Cherie Blair performs a peculiar, bobbing, adoring dance as her husband delivers his speeches. But if the body-language of the Blair campaign betokens the euphoria of approaching victory, the spoken language is contrasting and consistently, if not quite credibly, downbeat.

In Nottingham Mr Blair announced that he was taking nothing for granted; in Loughborough he was apparently taking even less for granted; by the time he reached Leicester, here was a man who would not like to predict whether the sun will rise tomorrow, let alone the outcome of the election.

In a little over three hours, he refused to count his chickens (those mascots of this election) a total of eight times, roundly declared that Britain "is not a landslide country" four times, and eschewed "complacency" with metronomic regularity.

Every time he proclaimed his incontinence, however, the Labour leader appeared a little more certain.

Posing with the Loughborough University rugby XV, alongside the splen-



A more composed Tony Blair arriving at Loughborough University yesterday

didly villainous and sweaty figure of former England hooker Brian Moore Mr Blair's determination to avoid premature jubilation and hubris was stretched to the limit. On cue, one of the players turned his back to the cameras and there, suddenly, Mr Blair was standing next to Number Ten. "We don't want to be triumphant," he said, triumphantly.

The contrast with the tension and uncertainty of the campaign's opening days could hardly be more acute. Mr Blair has relaxed, and the mood has been caught by his team, even though many of them are far less certain what their job will be next week than he is.

"Tony Blair hit by Granny Smith" was a headline that would once have sent the aides into turmoil, but yesterday they barely flinched as the chewed missile whizzed unexpectedly out of the crowd of Loughborough students. Similarly in Leicester, when supporters of the Socialist Labour Party set up chants of "New Labour, New Tony" and "Tony Blair", the Labour leader merely shrugged indulgently and shot back: "Every time you voice support for Arthur Scargill's party you do a disservice to everything the Labour Party stands for." The crowd cheered. Mr Blair smiled, but not too much. Mrs Blair bobbed.

The Blair campaign is de-

veloping a glamorous edge that would have been unthinkable in its earlier stages. Take the formation of helicopters laid on to ferry the Labour team and accompanying press around the country, a "presidential" technique of a sort that Mr Blair has hitherto studiously avoided. Even the spin-nurses could be heard humming "The Ride of the Valkyries" the theme from *Apocalypse Now*.

The new celebrity atmosphere seems to be contagious. A man in Leicester caught sight of Mrs Blair working the crowd. He rushed up, stared at her as if appraising a pin-up girl in the flesh. "Very attractive," he declared, and dashed off again.

TONY BLAIR and his family will move into 10 Downing Street if he becomes Prime Minister. It was confirmed yesterday, although building work may have to be carried out to extend the private flat to make it big enough for the family.

The disclosure by Whitehall sources that Mr and Mrs Blair would move their three children into the small flat from their home in Islington, north London, came on a day when Mr Blair had been preaching to his party about the risks of complacency. His office reacted furiously, describing the disclosure as "inaccurate, unhelpful and inappropriate".

Any changes needed for the flat would be paid for by the public purse. At present, it includes four bedrooms, a sitting room, dining room, kitchen and two or three bathrooms. It could be several weeks before it is ready for the Blairs. This would be the first time children have lived at Number 10 since Attlee moved his family out of the flat in the former servants' quarters in 1951.

It is thought unlikely that Mr Blair would sanction any lavish refurbishment, but the flat could be extended by taking over some upstairs training rooms as well as bedrooms used by civil servants who sometimes have to stay overnight.

Any expenditure would have to be approved by Alex Allan, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, who is the Downing Street



Number 10 may be scene of children's games again

accounting officer. It would have to be justifiable and the decision would be taken in the same way as any other decision in government.

One view at Westminster yesterday was that the Blairs would prefer to delay a family move into Downing Street until Ewan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, nine, are on their summer holidays from school.

The Downing Street flat, entered by a white door

marked "private", is on a mezzanine floor six or seven steps up from the policy unit. The flat is in former servants' cramped quarters and there is no longer any permanent domestic staff to help the Prime Minister. Occasionally staff from Chequers help the Majors mid-week.

A security source said last night that "anything was possible for the Blairs - how they wish to live as a family - if they co-operate with us."

As long as we know who is coming and going, then it would be fine.

Mr Blair, and his wife Cherie have never set foot in the Prime Minister's private accommodation - their only visit to Number 10 was to a state banquet - and it would not be known whether it would suit their family's needs until they are shown the layout on Friday when the election results are known.

In theory, the Blairs could have the pick of any of the government houses in London. There are three flats in the Admiralty, a residence in Carlton Gardens used by the Foreign Secretary, and a Belgraveia home which has been used recently by home secretaries.

The last children to play regularly in the Downing Street garden were Tom and Emily Lawson when their father was Chancellor. Margaret Thatcher was sympathetic to the needs of the Lawsons' young family who lived at No 11. She used to allow them a paddling pool and climbing frame in the garden and the children were banned from using the No 10 garden only on Thursday morning when the Cabinet met.

Harold Macmillan's grandson, the Earl of Stockton, recalled many occasions when he was allowed to play in Downing Street when his grandfather was Prime Minister. At a party, he recalled, he and his cousins ended up dancing the conga in the basement and because all the corridors inter-connected, they ended in the Ministry of Defence building on the other side of Whitehall.

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Win or lose, the red rose party will go on at least until dawn

LABOUR is planning a huge election night party for its staff, regardless of the result of Thursday's poll (James Landale writes).

Invitations to the late-night jamboree will go out today to hundreds of party officials at Labour's London headquarters and others around the country.

Amid Tory accusations of Labour complacency, party officials yesterday said the event was simply a way of thanking staff for their hard work during the campaign.

After the polls have closed at 10pm on Thursday, hundreds of Labour officials

and party workers at Millbank Tower will head over the Thames to the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank. There, probably in People's Palace restaurant, they will drink, listen to music and watch the results coming in on huge television screens until dawn.

Labour aides said many other party supporters and "B-list" celebrities were also expected to join in the fun. Peter Cunnah, lead singer of D:Ream, whose song *Things Can Only Get Better* has become Labour's anthem for the election, is expected to attend, along with artists such as the Jazz a Belles and the comedy

group, Newsreue. After flying down from Sedgefield, Tony Blair is expected to address the gathering at about 4.30am on Friday.

"This event will take place win or lose," a senior Labour spokesman said. "It is an event with the sole purpose of thanking all those who have worked, both full time or as volunteers, in Labour's central campaign."

Labour is keenly aware of the damaging impact its "victory" party had when they lost the last election in 1992. Officials were seen crying amid unopened bottles of champagne.

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Major's manic odyssey to keep kingdom together



Despite a growing Tory end-of-term feeling, Charles Bremner finds the head looking forward to a new timetable

JOHN MAJOR took up arms yesterday in fight against collapse. However, the threat of disintegration which he invoked in a manic day of aeroplane hopping, did not apply to his own fortunes but the unity of the kingdom.

In a ten-hour odyssey, he visited Belfast, Edinburgh, North Wales and returned to London, to trumpet the evils of disunion in its various forms, from Sinn Féin and the IRA to Labour's devolution plans. Putting the question at its simplest in Scotland, he asked: "Do you want the United Kingdom broken up into bite-size pieces?"

If he was four days from losing the election, he was determined not to show it as he displayed punchy form in a day of symbol-laden "picture bites". From the centre of Belfast to a windswept Welsh hillside, he wielded the future indicative, outlining actions planned for his next term in office.

With his back to the electoral wall and the vultures

circling within his own party, Mr Major seems determined to go down fighting. "He's not in denial," said one aide. "He really believes he's going to win."

It was impossible, however, to disguise the end-of-term feel, especially aboard "kilo alpha", the British Midland Boeing 737 which was on its last outing as his flying campaign battle bus. Festive rather than funeral, the crew had decked the cabin with balloons, draping blue crepe over Mr Major's seats in the first row.

Mr Major spent much of the day plotting his final offensive with Dr Brian Mawhinney and other strategists. The party chairman, also known as the Belfast Strangler, was the hand behind the Prime Minister's most delicate stop, a one-hour visit to Belfast.

He spent only 30 minutes in the city but it was one in the eye for the IRA and their campaign to disrupt the campaign. Before departing, he was offered a touch of the incongruous when Gilbert



Norma makes banner headlines in Edinburgh

Chalk, a London merchant banker and local Tory candidate, called for a jolly "Three cheers for the Prime Minister."

The public school tones of Mr Chalk's "hip hop rays" were echoed in the similarly un-Scottish vowels of Lord James Douglas Hamilton and many Tory loyalists in Edinburgh. Standing by the National Gallery under the shadow of the castle, Mr Major told the Scots to think what was at stake before they voted: "This is maybe a vote that will change the history and future of Scotland and the rest of the UK."

Enjoying himself, he even managed to carve up a few hecklers. Another flight later, in

Wales, the plane-load of media and other retainers were driven off through sheep-strewn countryside for the privilege of watching Mr Major and Norma posing for pictures with Anglesey and the Menai bridge behind them. Mr Major's message from the Welsh stopover was a warning against the extra taxes which he said Wales would pay if Labour was elected and proceeded with a local assembly.

Then it was back into the motorcade and the aeroplane for London, where he stood on the green at Westminster, offering another Union "photo-top" with parliament behind him. Mr Major will wind down the campaign closer to home.

Blame game exposes the twin Tory camps

Andrew Pierce and Philip Webster on how No 10 sidelined Central Office

THE divisions within the Conservative party were laid bare last night when friends of its chairman, Brian Mawhinney, accused Downing Street of setting him up as the scapegoat should the Tories lose the election.

Supporters of Dr Mawhinney, who is in charge of Central Office and election campaign staff, accused their Downing Street counterparts yesterday of briefing against him.

The root of the deepening discontent between the two camps stems from John Major's unilateral decision to put Europe at the centre of the campaign. Mr Major discussed his plans at Downing Street with key aides such as Lord Cranborne, his chief of staff and Howell James, his political secretary.

The Prime Minister's decision to rely on his Downing Street team of advisers in preference to Central Office exposed the most serious tensions. "Downing Street calls all the shots. It is a rival power base," said a supporter of Dr Mawhinney.

The growing tensions mirror the 1987 election campaign when Lord Young sought alternative advertising campaign advice without the knowledge of Lord Tebbit, then party chairman. "John Major is the Lord Young figure this time round," said a friend of Dr Mawhinney.

One Senior Tory official



Brian Mawhinney, left, and Lord Saatchi, who fell out over the Conservative's advertising campaign



added: "Everyone is very sensitive about the blame game. The chairman assumes it is the Majorities who are briefing against Central Office." Dr Mawhinney is particularly sensitive about criticism because of the affect it could have on his post-election future.

Central Office was brought into the discussions to put Europe at the centre of the campaign only an hour before the morning's press conference, on the economy, was due to begin. "We were bounced," said a source. Mr Major also decided in Downing Street to remake that night's election broadcast on Europe, defying Dr Mawhinney who tried to persuade him to revert to the original which focused on trusting Labour after positive

reports on the lunchtime news.

The next morning's press conference was again dominated by Europe when Mr Major revealed that he would give Tory MPs a free vote on a single currency. It was unscripted. He had not told Dr Mawhinney. "At that point it was obvious Central Office had lost control of the campaign to Major's men at Downing Street."

The predominately Eurosceptic camp at Central Office thought the only votes to be gained by putting Europe at the centre was if Mr Major ruled out a single currency, which was never going to happen. "The issue became Mr Major versus Mr Blair at the Amsterdam inter-govern-

mental conference. Most voters have never heard of the IGC. We just wasted days and days," said the source.

Dr Mawhinney, backed by Sir Tim Bell, another key adviser, David Willetts and Danny Finkelstein, who run the research department, wanted to hit Mr Blair hard and concentrate on "trust and the wallet". They were again overruled.

For Dr Mawhinney and his friends the campaign never got back on line. "Unemployment figures, good inflation figures, the country's recovery was lost in the din of Europe. Labour was no longer on the defensive and making up policy on the hoof. It was always going to make it hard then to turn around the opinion polls."

It was also confirmed that there have been disagreements between the party's advertising chief, Lord Saatchi, and Central Office. Tensions between Dr Mawhinney and Lord Saatchi arose before the campaign began when Lord Saatchi, objected to criticism, frequently clashed with Dr Mawhinney, and unfairly blamed Central Office for pulling some of his best advertisements, a Tory insider said.

Official Tory sources said talk of a serious rift was "overblown". "This is a grown-up campaign and occasionally you are going to get people disagreeing."

Blair initiates musical chairs for Cabinet table

TONY BLAIR's aides cast caution aside at the weekend by beginning, privately, to name members of his first Cabinet. The problem for political pundits desperate to know the make-up of the new government was that the sides left 18 gaps around the Cabinet table.

Four of Mr Blair's closest lieutenants can stand easy, confident of their leader's backing. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, and David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, can book themselves into their matching government posts alongside Mr Blair.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, has been assured of a "key post" by Mr Blair and is expected to continue the title of Deputy Prime Minister revived by Michael Heseltine. A role as "Superminister", co-ordinating environmental and transport policy, together with a regional development strategy that he has already set in train, looks likely.

Donald Dewar, currently the party's Chief Whip, has been touted for several pivotal roles. However, his record as a highly skilled parliamentary negotiator is likely to secure the post of Leader of the Commons, where he would steer through flagship legislation in the face of demolition tactics by the Tory Opposition.

That would allow Mr Blair to appoint a woman as Chief Whip, with Ann Taylor moving from the Shadow Leader of the Commons to the crucial non-Cabinet role.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, Shadow Lord Chancellor and a close confidant of Mr Blair, looks certain to take over the matching Government post, retaining his strong advisory role. Another essential Cabinet position, that of Leader of the Lords, looks set to go to Lord Richard, although Mr Blair has faced pressure to put Baroness Blackstone in post.

Although Harriet Harman, as Shadow Social Security Secretary, and Chris Smith, Shadow Health Secretary, have suffered from negative campaigning at the hands of Gordon Brown's spin doctors, a desire for continuity may keep them in post. Although

The race is on to name the 23 members of Tony Blair's first Cabinet. So far there are 18 empty places, writes Arthur Leathley

Margaret Beckett, a defeated Labour leadership candidate, looks set to have a prominent position in Cabinet, there are doubts over the composition of her Department of Trade and Industry. Jack Cunningham, the current Shadow National Heritage Secretary, is considered to have the charisma to become the high-profile "minister for fun".

Mr Prescott's cross-departmental brief is likely to prompt the end of a specific Transport Secretary position, offering Mr Blair the opportunity to move Andrew Smith

into a Defence Secretary role. Such a move leaves David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, looking doomed to a non-Cabinet position.

The Environment Department also looks set to be stripped of much of its present power, leaving Frank Dobson without a role. He may prefer to let the junior Cabinet position on education go to a newcomer, such as Stephen Byers.

Question marks hang over the futures of Tom Clarke, the Shadow Disabled Rights Minister, and Clare Short, Shadow Overseas Development Minister, each of whose posts may be downgraded to non-Cabinet rank. The heads of the shadow Northern Ireland, Welsh and Scottish offices have prompted criticism within the party. However, the respective incumbents, Marjorie Mowlam, Ron Davies and George Robertson, may be spared the axe in the short term.

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Hese over Major

Jill Sherman was

MICHAEL HESSELMAN was into a member audience of being to appear and then.

The Prime Minister's London speech on Sunday would be 500 minutes when each leader represents the election voters.

Minister worked minutes get under audience. Major's programme had three but John would.

The bowed during outbreak. "We can't the Prime in couldn't gramine reasons."

But the "chicken" "If you Minister Ireland haven't brave and all about. When out that em Ireland ing, but that was taking



Lawley pointed out that visit was in the morning

Dang May



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Heseltine snaps over taunts that Major ducked TV

Jill Sherman watches the dutiful deputy fly into a rage

MICHAEL HESELTINE flew into a temper last night when members of a television studio audience accused John Major of being "chicken" for failing to appear on the programme and be cross-questioned by them.

The Prime Minister told London Weekend Television on Sunday morning that he would be unable to attend *ITV 500 - The People's Election* when each of the three party leaders was due to face 20 minutes of questions from a representative audience. It is the only peak-time television election programme where voters have a chance to challenge politicians directly.

Yesterday the Deputy Prime Minister, who took his place, worked himself up into a rage minutes after the programme got under way after a hostile audience taunted him over Mr Major's absence.

Sue Lawley introduced the programme by saying that it had been expected that the three leaders would be there, but John Major "let us know over the last few days that he would not be joining us".

The 500-strong audience booed softly during the introduction prompting an angry outburst from Mr Heseltine. "We cannot allow the fact that the Prime Minister has been in Northern Ireland and couldn't announce his programme because of security reasons to go by," he said.

But when one member of the audience shouted out "chicken" he lost his temper. "If you think that the Prime Minister going to Northern Ireland is 'chicken' you haven't the first idea what a brave and courageous man is all about," he snapped.

When Ms Lawley pointed out that he was visiting Northern Ireland yesterday morning, but that the programme was taking place in the after-

noon, he added tersely: "he was also visiting other parts of the United Kingdom. That is the big issue of the day."

Mr Heseltine then attacked the political leanings of the audience after facing a barrage of questions on poverty, low wages and grammar schools and how the Tories had managed to "con the country for the past 18 years". He argued that because the audience had been selected by the polling organisation MORI to represent a cross section of the public they were inherently hostile to the Conservatives.

"Let us not have any illusions," he said. "This audience is carefully selected to represent the political parties. That means, on any normal statistics, about two-thirds of this audience want either a Liberal or Labour candidate to win. It is an audience that is bound to give an anti-Government slant, and I hope everybody at home will understand that."

Mr Heseltine did little to try to win round his audience, who had been selected two months ago. He sparked further jeers when he told a nurse complaining about pay rises banded out to "fat cats" that average earnings were rising ahead of inflation. "It's no use shouting, if you don't like the truth, the fact is that average earnings are rising faster than inflation," he retorted angrily. "That's why living standards are rising, the housing market is booming, retail sales are rising - because people are better off."

Pressed on the tax rises brought in by the Tories after the last election, Mr Heseltine said there had been 25 tax reductions and he was proud that the Government had decided to raise taxes to protect essential public services during the recession.

Ms Lawley suggested that the nation's trust had been eroded by the tax rises. But to shouts of "rubbish" Mr Heseltine argued: "If we had cut essential public services at that time under the pressure of the recession, we wouldn't have deserved to be re-elected today. But we were not prepared to let the pensioners, the health service and the school kids suffer."

He got further heckling when he suggested that no one had to rely on the basic state pension. Asked if he could roanage on a state pension he said: "No old age pensioner has to manage on just the old age pension. There is council tax benefit, housing benefit... and, depending on their cir-

cumstances, a range of health service benefits."

Paddy Ashdown and Tony Blair were also given a rough ride when they had to take centre stage for 20 minutes, but neither was ruffled by the hostile questioning.

Mr Ashdown appeared to condone tactical voting when he said people who wanted the Tories out should vote for the party most likely to get them out. "Vote for what you believe in. Cast your vote for what you want. If your purpose is getting rid of this government, you vote to achieve that."

Mr Ashdown confirmed that he would not work with a Conservative government in a hung Parliament but he also gave a strong indication that he expected a clear Labour majority. A hung Parliament was "extremely unlikely to happen," he said.



Michael Heseltine: denied that John Major was being "chicken" by not appearing on programme

Labour takes wing with a vision of the future

TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

THE Tories tried to frighten voters early in the campaign with a piece of television fiction, speculating on what life might be like under Labour. Last night Labour returned the compliment. While the Tories showed a string of materialistic voters whining that they had been duped into voting Labour and were quickly worse off, Labour screened a featurette of life after a Tory victory.

A young father is too late to vote on Thursday because he has been waiting six hours in casualty while overworked NHS staff treat his daughter's fractured arm. As he walks out of the hospital, it is pouring with rain. A cab pulls up and tells them to get in. Then the cabbie, played by Pete Postlethwaite, reveals that he has special insight into people's lives.

Life under the Tories would mean more crowded hospitals, larger school class sizes, perhaps VAT on food, unsafe streets. And as he drops them, waiving the fare, the father notices that the hands of the public clock is being turned back. There is still time to vote Labour.

Film buffs will enjoy the parallels. The plot is a lift from Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, in which an angel shows a suicidal James Stewart the devastation created if he had never existed. The Labour cabbie has wings.

Labour's director was Stephen Frears, the master of English television films like *My Beautiful Laundrette* who made movies like *The Grifters* in the USA. The central assumption of the Labour film is, of course, riven with implausibilities. Whoever heard of an empty cab when it is pouring with rain? Who knows of a cabbie who will pass up a fare in any circumstances?

The skill of Frears, however, was to bridge the gap between his fantasy world and the real one. Although scenes were in soft focus and overlit as in a dream, the images were real - an

overcrowded hospital with patients lying in corridors; an overcrowded schoolroom, where children cannot concentrate; a high street where a child is scared by the anarchic behaviour of the children around her. Only when making the point about VAT on heating, where the girl opens her grandmother's cupboard to find it bare because VAT has been put on food, did this unlikely marriage of fact and the fabulous look absurd.

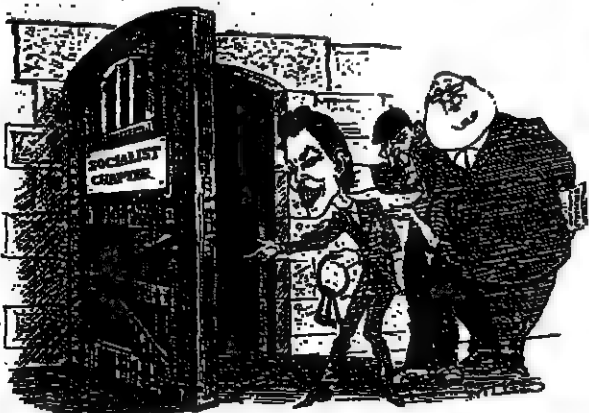
Labour have been winning the war of the election broadcasts. They have screened the bulldog Fitz, Molly Dineen's Blair documentary and last night's *Taxi Driver* - all well-made and well targeted. The Tory films have been weaker - the tree without roots perhaps the most ineffective - and were blown off-course as Mr Major scrapped the regular schedule to make a direct appeal to his party and the nation. All of which means very little, of course. Labour won the television propaganda wars in 1992 and 1987, too, but they lost the real elections.

BRITAIN DESERVES BITTER



Lawley: pointed out that visit was in the morning

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Paddy keeps his hair on in air raid on loose bits

BOARDING a Sikorski helicopter to accompany Paddy Ashdown on a whirlwind tour of Liberal Democrat target seats, we were handed the three items those facing a day with a party leader should never be without: ear-muffs, a sick-bag, and a map indicating the escape hatch.

"Hold on to your loose bits," shouted one of Mr Ashdown's aides, as we were ushered on to the tarmac at Battersea Helipoint in London, "or they'll blow away." The Liberal Democrats' airborne mission was to storm — in a morning — four Conservative constituencies with tiny majorities, and blow the Tories' loose bits away. From the window of the helicopter we watched Mr Ashdown's black Jaguar sweep up. In a moment the former Marine would be under that whirling rotor. A single question gripped on-lookers. Does he lacquer his hair? Our chopper would provide the ultimate test. Ashdown stepped from the limousine, adjusted his eyes to slit-mode for a day's gritty glad-handing, and walked beneath the blades.

The Times is pleased to announce that Mr Ashdown's hairspray passes the Sikorski Test. Not a loose strand: every ginger crinkle intact. The



Matthew Parris finds the Liberal Democrat leader unruffled by his party's low standing in the opinion polls during a whirlwind helicopter tour of Tory marginals

great and unruffled leader entered the helicopter and confronted twenty media folk for whom the mother of all bad hair days had just begun. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" he cried. And we were away. The Liberal Democrats can afford only one chopper — not for them the Labour helicopter formation team — so we were all together with him. But rotor noise was too loud for conversation and Ashdown had an hour to himself as we headed for his first target, Colchester. Canary Wharf, construction works on the new Jubilee Line, the new East London river crossing and the brightly painted, multicoloured liveries of privatised trains — testament to 18 years of Thatcherism — passed beneath. The Palace of Westminster looked very small.

At 11.15am we came down in parkland, near a road. Mar-

garet Thatcher was once reported to have stepped from a helicopter near Castle Donnington in the East Midlands, shot a bewildered glance at the surrounding cooling towers, and asked: "Where am I?"

Here, somewhere in East Anglia and for the first time, I sympathised. The Liberal Democrat candidate for Colchester, Bob Russell, and a handful of amazed townspeople stared as we climbed out. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" cried Ashdown. At the sports club some 200 supporters waited. Interestingly, they were a younger crowd than the other two leaders draw. He kept on to a wall and grabbed a microphone.

The helicopter's emergency instructions include action to be taken at the command "brace! brace!". The same command might helpfully be given before one of Mr Ashdown's harangues. Every-one waved orange placards and cheered. A former Marine who had quit the Labour Party was paraded like a prisoner of war. He attempted to tear up his Labour membership card for the cameras. It proved indestructible. We tore off back to the helicopter. Ashdown had spent 12 minutes in Colchester, but spent them well: he is an ace glad-hander.

An hour later we landed on a sports field somewhere near Eastbourne, where candidate Chris Berry was waiting. Ashdown alighted. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" Have you read about that "cargo cult" on a South Pacific island where the natives — whose folk



Essential kit: a safety instruction card, pair of ear protectors and paper sickbag

memory includes a Second World War emergency landing by a US freight aeroplane — have built ritual landing strips where they pray in preparation for a Second Landing? In a century's time, long after various helicopters, Tories, Labour and Liberal Democrats are forgotten, the natives of Essex and Sussex may be worshipping patches of grass. The same speech followed, after a lightning, placard-brandishing street-parade down Eastbourne's Terminus Road, bewildering scores of old ladies. Then it was the Sikorski. Then it was Lewes. If this was Lewes, that must be the candidate for Lewes, Norman Baker. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" Three hundred Liberal Democrats — good people, with nice faces — waited in a field. The same speech again.

One realised that the problem with helicopter-hopping is not that the politician bores his audience, which keeps changing. The problem is that he bores himself. A man on crutches was brought to be blessed, then a pregnant woman, then a toddler — and finally a dog. Paddy patted them all. "Hiyah! Howya doing?" To the Sikorski! Twickenham was next. His hair was perfect.

Labour advance brings Lib Dems mixed omens

IF THE Liberal Democrats are ever to achieve a breakthrough, their best chance is this Thursday. Past advances in general elections have been at a Tory defeat, as in 1964 and 1974: the sole exception has been 1983, when Labour came close to destroying itself, and the Liberal/SDP Alliance had success. The omens this time are mixed, because of Labour's strength.

Paddy Ashdown has concentrated on a limited number of target seats rather than attempting a broad national advance. The theory is that the party can win more seats for any given share of the national vote.

Since 1992, the Lib Dems have emerged as the second party of local government, and have built support in the South West. The 1994 polls for the European Parliament showed both the potential and the dangers of this approach: the party won two seats, and was robbed of a third by a maverick candidate. But it was prevented from winning more because many anti-Tory votes went to Labour.

The party faces the same dilemma now. Its strategists claim that its national opinion poll rating — up from 12.8 to nearly 15 per cent during the campaign — understates its strength in its target seats.

The Lib Dem case is that even if Labour is gaining in these seats, it is at the expense of the Tories, leaving them well-placed as the leading challenger. The risk is that Labour may also be gaining from the Lib Dems, splitting the opposition vote again and allowing some Tories to win on a much lower share of the vote. The pattern is mixed, according to constituency polls conducted by ICM for *The Observer*. In some places, Labour has moved up from third place to either create a three-way fight, as in Colchester, or to eclipse the Lib Dems, as in St Albans.

The Labour advance also threatens Lib Dem gains in its top target seats in the South West, such as Taunton and Bridgwater. However, the Lib Dems argue that there is scope to squeeze Labour on an appeal to people to vote tactically against the Tories. But warning against a Labour landslide risks frightening floating voters back to the Tories.

The resilient Mr Ashdown has fought a strong campaign, focusing on the party's costed plans on health, education and crime, though hardly mentioning constitutional reform. As



PETER RIDDELL

Labour has played safe, the Lib Dems have claimed they are being more candid on spending and tax. This would not work for one of the main contenders, but has helped prevent the Lib Dems being squeezed out of the picture.

My hunch is that the Lib Dems will win more seats overall, despite losing some through retirements and boundary changes. Some will be in the West Country, and the Lib Dems are also hopeful of gains at Oxford West and Abingdon, Southport and Hazel Grove. The risk for Mr Ashdown remains that, despite a modest advance, the party will be left on the sidelines by a big Labour win. Much will then depend on whether Tony Blair fulfils his promise of creating a non-tribal style of centre-left politics by reaching out to the Lib Dems.

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Clarke and Brown leave room to raise funds

TAX policy has been the dog that did not bark in this election campaign. However, the public's apparent indifference has been understandable. After seeing what happened to John Major's 1992 pledge of tax cuts "year after year", the voters have regarded all statements on taxes with suspicion.

Tony Blair's strategy, therefore, was to try to neutralise tax as a political factor and fight the election on other issues. However, given the strength of consumer spending and the damage done to exporters and manufacturers by the overvalued pound, substantial tax increases now look very likely whichever party is elected.

While the election may not have done much to restrain the Government's appetite for additional revenues, it has put down clear markers on how this money may and may not be raised. While the

THE POLITICS

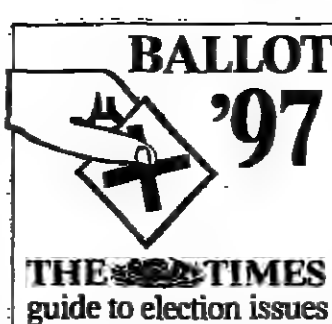
Liberal Democrats have boldly called for an increase of 1 per cent in the standard rate of income tax — from 23 to 24 per cent — to fund additional spending on education. Labour and the Conservatives have firmly ruled out any increase in the standard or the top rate of tax.

Labour has also promised that it will not increase the 17.5 per cent rate of VAT, nor extend VAT to food, newspapers, public transport and children's clothes. In addition, Labour will cut the VAT rate on domestic fuel and heating from 8 to 5 per cent. These are electoral pledges that voters can firmly rely on — they will not be broken, short of a war or some unpredictable calamity. The promises will never need to be broken because both Gordon Brown and Kenneth

Clarke have been extremely careful to leave themselves with plenty of leeway to raise additional funds without venturing into the forbidden territories defined by their campaign promises.

By confining their promises on income tax rates, both parties have deliberately left open the possibility of raising more taxes by changing personal allowances, altering tax bands or reducing special reliefs for mortgage interest, pensions and personal equity plans. More importantly, they have left untouched the vast swath of taxes levied on company profits, motoring, energy, alcohol, tobacco, insurance and so on.

The £72 billion raised in income tax accounts for only 24 per cent of total government revenues, while VAT accounts for 17 per cent. Thus even if changes in these two types of tax were ruled completely out of



20: Taxation

bounds, there would be plenty of scope to raise additional revenues. What, then, might the two major parties do — and not do? On indirect taxes, the Tories have been slightly less specific than Labour, saying only that they have no plans and no need to extend or increase

VAT. Labour has said it would not extend VAT to private education but this promise does not seem to have quite the same definitive status as the promises on food and so on. Outside the VAT net, there are plenty of plans for higher indirect taxes. In fact, taxes on petrol and tobacco are scheduled to rise by 5 per cent in real terms each year under the plans already put forward in successive Tory Budgets. Labour could well accelerate this rate of increase, citing environmental and health concerns, but raising a lot of extra revenue in the process.

On income tax, the Tories have announced two major objectives: to reduce the standard rate of income tax from 23 to 20 per cent and to allow married couples with children and one non-working spouse to take advantage of two personal allowances instead of one. John

Major has said that this new marriage relief would take priority over the general reduction in income tax. The relatively few eligible families would gain about £800 annually from this new relief.

Labour also has a "long-term objective" to reduce income tax, but its way of doing this is very different from the Tories. Instead of cutting the standard rate, Labour would introduce a 10 per cent tax band at the bottom of the income scale. This would be most beneficial to people on average and low earnings, while the gains from the Tory approach would go predominantly to those at the top of the income scale (see chart below).

Looking beyond income tax and VAT, the possibilities for tax changes are legion — and none of the parties has given any real indication of what it may or may not do. Probably the most sensitive

area is the National Insurance system. However, an increase in National Insurance rates seems unlikely since it would be instantly identified as a devious way of breaking Mr Blair's cash-for-promises-on-income-tax.

More likely areas for major reform are the taxation of savings and corporate profits. Labour has already promised a windfall tax on the excess profits of the privatised utilities. If the Treasury wants to raise extra money — and almost all economists are united in believing it will — the obvious places to look will be mortgage tax relief, insurance taxation and tax credits on dividends received by pension funds and personal equity plans. Reforms in these obscure corners of the tax system could raise many billions without breaking any electoral promises — and action is likely whichever party wins.

Tory reform has had little impact on salary slips

IF THERE is one thing that the numerous warring factions of the Conservative Party have in common, it is faith in the lowest possible level of taxes. It must come as a bitter disappointment, therefore, that after 18 years of Tory rule, Britain's total tax burden is considerably higher than it was in the final year of the last Labour government — 36.25 per cent of gross domestic product in the Budget for 1997-98 compared with 34.25 per cent in 1978-79.

This increase in total taxes has not gone to pay for public services. Total government spending has fallen quite sharply, from 44 per cent of GDP in 1978-79 to a planned 40.5 per cent in the current financial year — a cut in public spending equivalent to about £24.5 billion, or half the total cost of the National Health Service. Where then has all the extra tax revenue gone? Most has been used to reduce the dangerously high deficits bequeathed to the Tories by the last Labour government — public borrowing has fallen from 5.5 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent of GDP, a reduction almost equal to the cut in total public spending. However, a major part of the extra tax revenue has had to be used to

fill the hole left in successive Tory governments' finances by the privatisation of extremely profitable nationalised industries.

These privatisations unquestionably increased the efficiency of some of Britain's most important industries, promoted economic growth and thus indirectly channelled money to the Exchequer. In addition, the profits of the former nationalised industries have been subject to corporation tax. Nevertheless, the direct effect on the public accounts has been sharply

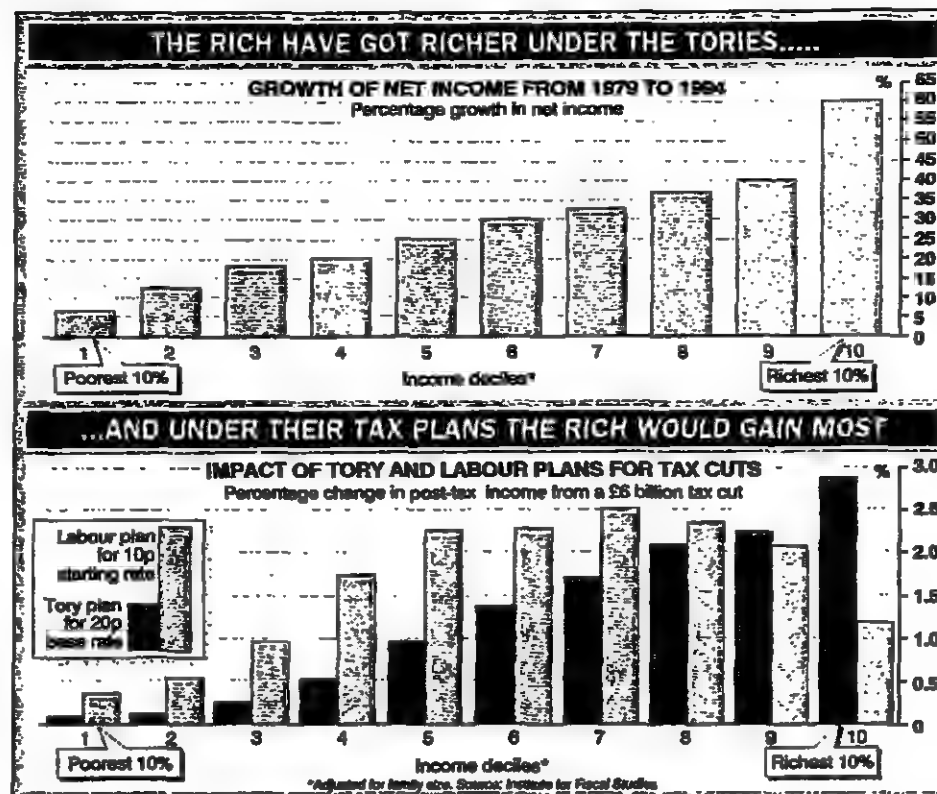
THE RECORD

negative: the Treasury's non-tax income has fallen from 4.5 per cent of GDP in 1978-79 to a planned 1.75 per cent of GDP in 1997-98. This reduction in non-tax revenue, equivalent to almost £20 billion a year in today's money, has been roughly equal to the increase in the total burden of tax. It could be argued that the income lost from "selling the family silver" has been almost equal to the increase in total taxes under the Tories.

A related charge against the Tories is that they have squandered tax revenues from

North Sea oil. This is, at most, half true. Government revenues from the North Sea today are down to less than £2 billion — very similar to the level in 1978-79. But when oil prices peaked in the mid-1980s, North Sea oil was yielding revenues of more than £12 billion. This money was used partly to finance the tax cuts of the Lawson period and partly to repay the national debt. The tax cuts financed in this way were bound to prove unsustainable. The reduction in national debt should have been a lasting and worthwhile achievement. Sadly, it was frittered away by the economic mismanagement during Britain's time in the ERM.

Despite their mixed record on the overall burden, the Tories have managed to deliver big reductions in certain taxes. Most notably, the top rate of income tax was reduced from 55p in the pound under Denis Healey to 40p immediately after the 1979 election and then to 40p in 1988. The standard rate of tax was cut from 33p to 25p under Margaret Thatcher and then trimmed to 23p under John Major. Inheritance tax has also fallen, although it has not been abolished, as Mr Major has repeatedly suggested it



would. Curiously, the Tories have actually increased the burden of the two taxes that entrepreneurs and small businessmen most dislike — capital gains and business rates.

Despite these provisions, nobody can deny that the reduction in Britain's punitive income tax rates has been a genuine, and probably irreversible, achievement. But even on this central point at least three caveats must be attached. Most obviously, the money the Treasury gave up through income tax reductions was taken back by raising indirect taxes. VAT was almost doubled from 8 to 15 per cent immediately after the

1979 election to finance the first big reductions in standard and higher rates of tax. VAT was then raised to 17.5 per cent in 1991 to finance the replacement of the hated poll tax by the council tax.

The second caveat is that the actual deductions from most workers' pay packets have not changed by remotely as much as might be suggested by the headline cuts in rates. This is because successive Tory Chancellors have whittled away the numerous allowances — especially mortgage tax relief and marriage allowances — that used to be available against taxes and have lowered the starting levels at which both the standard and the top rates of income taxes are paid. In addition, there has been a big increase in the employee's National Insurance contribution, from 5.75 per cent in 1978-79 to 10 per cent today. This alone has offset roughly half the reduction in the standard rate of income tax since 1979. (The employee's National Insurance contribution, which most economists regard as a payment of income tax on behalf of the employees, has gone up even more sharply.)

Thus the net result under the Tories has been not so much to reduce the burden of income tax as to alter the way that it is raised.

This leads to perhaps the most serious objection to the Tory income tax record. The

main effect of all the changes was to redistribute income tax from one group of taxpayers to another and the main losers have been the people who could arguably least afford extra taxes: families on low to middle incomes, especially those with only one breadwinner. For example, a married couple with one working spouse on average earnings, a mortgage and two children, paid 12 per cent of their income in taxes and National Insurance in 1978-79. A similar family is now paying more than 20 per cent. The gains from the Tory period have broadly been families with two full-time workers and the relatively rich. A family with two workers and a total income of three times average earnings, for example, would have paid 32 per cent of its income in tax and National Insurance in 1978-79. Today that would be down to about 27 per cent.

In sum, then, the changes in the tax system have contributed to the dramatic widening in Britain's distribution of income illustrated in the top chart. Most economists would argue, nevertheless, that everyone has benefited indirectly from a less penal tax system that has promoted economic efficiency, discouraged tax avoidance and sharpened economic incentives. But this may not be persuasive to voters who do not see the extra money on their salary slip.

THE POLITICIANS

KENNETH CLARKE, Age: 56

Education: Nottingham High School, Cambridge (BA in law and LLB), Gray's Inn.

Experience: seven years as barrister in the Midlands, combined with work for Conservative Party and Bow Group. Elected 1970; swiftly promoted through whips' office to junior minister under Heath. In Cabinet since 1985, Chancellor since 1993.

Politics: passionate pro-European, one-nation Tory, fearless political bruiser with strong social conscience. Believes Treasury best serves the poor by maintaining strong growth and low inflation, not by redistributing income.

GORDON BROWN, Age: 46

Education: Kirkcaldy High School, Edinburgh University (PhD in history).

Experience: academic and later a television journalist. Senior shadow economic posts since 1987, Shadow Chancellor since 1992.

Politics: convinced that Labour lost the last election because of its demand for higher taxes, especially on "aspirational" who thought they might earn more in future than be clobbered by high tax. Opponent of old Labour class struggles, but has read his Engels and Marx. Believes that greater equality can be achieved by offering opportunity to all, rather than by redistribution by taxation.

WHAT THEY SAID

In the next Parliament we'll go tax cutting. We will make that our aim year by year. I want to extend the 20p tax band further and further up the income scale. More tax cuts for all. That's how you provide benefits for all. That is our basic Conservative belief.

John Major, April 1992

We have no plans and no need to increase the impact of VAT.

John Major, March 1992

We exempt far too many goods and services from VAT in this country.

Kenneth Clarke, letter to a constituent, 1993

We hurt people and they remember those promises

and they remember the taxes ... this time they are looking out of the side of their eyes, is this for real?

Kenneth Clarke, May 1996

There will be no increase in the basic or top rates of income tax.

Labour manifesto

My tax-cutting ambition is to lower the starting rate of tax to 15p or even 10p.

Gordon Brown, September 1996

Gordon can say anything he likes if he thinks it is going to win the election. When Labour is in power they will be looking for other priorities apart from tax cuts.

Diane Abbott, November 1995

THE FACTS

□ A married couple with one breadwinner on average earnings (£21,316) in 1996-97 paid 21.4 per cent of income in direct taxes. A similar couple would have paid 20.5 per cent in 1991-92 and 20.9 per cent in 1978-79.

□ A single person on average earnings (£21,316) in 1996-97 paid 27.6 per cent in direct taxes. A similar person would have paid 28.1 per cent in 1991-92 and 31.5 per cent in 1978-79.

□ Taking account of changes in VAT and other indirect taxes, the total effects of all tax and benefit changes between 1992 and 1997 have been negative for everyone, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

□ North Sea oil now produces less than £2 billion a year in revenues. Revenues peaked at £12.03 billion in 1984-85.

□ Income tax now yields 24 per cent of total tax revenues, compared with 23 per cent in 1978-79. In the same period the share of VAT has risen from 7.8 per cent to 16.9 per cent.

□ Tobacco and alcohol duties have fallen from 7.2 per cent of all taxes in 1978-79 to 4.8 per cent in 1997-98.

□ In 1995, Britain's tax receipts as a share of GDP were the lowest in Europe, but at 37.6 per cent they were higher than Japan (32.1 per cent) and the US (31.3 per cent).

CONSERVATIVES

Income tax: cut standard rate from 23p to 20p when resources allow. Introduce transferable personal allowances for married couples with children and non-working spouse. This new marriage allowance will take priority over reductions in standard rate.

Tax allowances: no specific commitments have been made on mortgage relief, suggesting that it could continue to be whittled away as it has been since 1979.

Capital gains: long-term aspiration to abolish capital gains tax and inheritance tax but no progress towards either goal. Both take lower priority than income-tax cuts and new marriage relief. Given pressure on public finances, not much hope of progress in next Parliament.

VAT: no plans to raise or extend, but no absolute promises.

Corporation tax: no windfall tax, but changes in advance corporation tax as likely as under Labour. Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke have already taken a bite, and Treasury appetite seems to be growing.

LABOUR

Income tax: no increase in tax rates. Long-term intention to introduce 10 per cent band for those on lower incomes. National Insurance unlikely to be raised, but no manifesto promise.

VAT: firm promises of cut on domestic fuel, no increase in general rate, and no extension to food, books, newspapers, public transport and children's clothes. Indications that VAT will not be extended to private school fees, but no manifesto promise.

Corporation tax: windfall tax of £5 billion to £10 billion on privatised utilities. Changes in advance corporation tax widely rumoured, but not confirmed.

Capital gains: Labour will consider a lower rate of capital gains for long-term investments, but this is not promised as a commitment.

Tax allowances: no specific commitments, meaning that mortgage relief could be reduced further. Labour rejects the Conservative idea of providing special allowances for married couples with children.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Income tax: increase the standard rate from 23 to 24 per cent to finance an extra £2 billion a year in education spending. Top rate increased from 40 to 50 per cent. Personal allowance raised by £200 to take 500,000 poorer people out of the income-tax net. Liberal Democrats believe that the better-off are prepared to pay higher taxes if they know where the money is going. National Audit Office to prepare annual report, certifying that the extra penny on tax is not diverted from education and is being efficiently spent.

VAT: cut on energy conservation materials to 3 per cent.

Motoring and energy taxes: higher fuel duties, offset by reduction in vehicle excise duty for small-engined cars. Other energy and pollution taxes likely. Manifesto commitment to "begin a long-term shift in taxation, reducing taxes on jobs, wealth and goods and shifting them to pollution and resource depletion".

Tobacco duties: extra 5p per packet, earmarked to pay for additional health spending.

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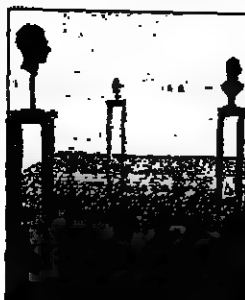
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 29 1997

Windfalls credited for boosting consumer confidence

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE "feel-good" factor has hit a ten-year high but consumers are credit-building society windfall payments rather than the Government for the surge in confidence, a new survey finds today.

Business Strategies, whose director Bridget Rosewall is one of the Chancellor's panel of independent

economic advisers, says that its consumer survey shows the highest levels of consumer confidence in the UK since 1987.

Its overall consumer confidence index shows a net balance of 24 per cent of consumers optimistic about the next 12 months. The index shows that optimism has now risen in seven out of the last eight quarters — the longest sustained increase in confidence since the mid-1980s.

But it suggests that the principal reason behind the surge is windfall payments from the flotation and conversion of a number of building societies and insurance companies, which will see consumers reap a £21 billion windfall.

David Fell, a director at Business Strategies, says: "The 'feel-good' factor is being put down to the windfall gains and consumers are not seeing the Government as being

responsible for these windfall gains. Consumers are very cynical in that they see this as nothing to do with the Government."

Business Strategies says that other factors which have led to an acceleration in confidence among consumers include falling unemployment and tax cuts. The positive benefit of these changes is outweighing consumer fears about increases in inflation and

interest rates and the outcome of this week's general election. Its economists say that their evidence shows the economy to be doing better than at any time since the 1980s boom, but they insist that this is not an "unsustainable boom to be followed by a calamitous bust".

The survey suggests that consumers are still concerned about the outlook for housing, employment security and the impact of windfall

gains and "still have their feet on the brake pedal". However, the consultancy is forecasting a rise in interest rates by the end of this year by a full percentage point to 7 per cent, though it refuses to endorse suggestions from organisations such as the CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce that an incoming government should consider raising taxes as well as examining further rate rises.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FTSE 100	4388.7	(+20.0)	
Yield	3.69%		
FTSE All share	5116.52	(+6.47)	
Nikkei	18679.37	(+57.51)	
New York			
Dow Jones	6771.39	(+32.51)	
S&P Composite	772.05	(+6.71)	
US RATE			
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	
Long Bond	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)	
Yield	7.14%	(7.14%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-month interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)	
Life long rate	100%	(100%)	
STERLING			
New York			
\$	1.6238*	(1.6234)	
DM	1.8234	(1.8231)	
FF	2.5040	(2.5044)	
SP	1.4559	(1.4559)	
Yen	126.70*	(126.25)	
£ Index	106.2	(106.0)	
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$18.35	(\$18.35)	
London close	\$340.06	(\$342.55)	

Sears to detail Strong exit and sell-off

BY PATIENCE WHEATCROFT
CITY EDITOR

SEARS is to demerge its Selfridges department store business. The plan will be revealed this morning, along with details of the long-rumoured departure of Liam Strong, chief executive. There is also likely to be news of the appointment of an outsider to help Sears to extricate itself from its shoe retailing operations.

Mr Strong will leave the group in June. Speculation over his future has been rampant as details of the group's dismal performance has leaked out. Today Sir Bob Reid, chairman, will report that profits for the year to January have sunk from £100 million to less than £80 million. The major problem is the shoe business, but Freeman's, the mail order company, is also significantly down.

The new Sears strategy is not as radical as some City pundits had hoped. While Selfridges is to be demerged, the group will not make an immediate exit from its loss-making shoe chains. Instead, it is likely to bring in a company doctor to preside over the exit at the least possible cost to the company.

The company will argue that with this structure in place, there will no longer be a need for a chief executive at the centre. Prospects of a £500,000 payoff to Mr Strong, who is on a two-year contract, are likely to arouse criticism from shareholders who have seen the value of their investments tumble under his reign.

There could be further disappointment to come, since pulling out of shoes will bring heavy write-offs. They will not be taken with the 1996-97 accounts, and the company will hope that by avoiding a hasty closure the outcome can be better than the £300 million costs that one analyst has predicted.

Today will bring confirmation that Sears is pressing ahead with the sale of Freemans to Littlewoods, but at a significantly lower price than the £395 million previously agreed. This may leave the way open for another bidder to come in. N Brown is said to be still interested in Freemans.

City firms apologise for role in failed Regan bid

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TWO leading City institutions yesterday made unprecedented apologies to the Co-operative Wholesale Society over their role in Andrew Regan's abortive takeover attempt.

Hambros, the merchant bank, and Travers Smith Braithwaite, the solicitors, settled out of court with the CWS, issuing unreserved apologies and agreeing to pay damages believed to exceed £1 million.

Hambros, after consulting the Securities and Futures Authority and the Bank of England, appointed Norton Rose, the solicitors, to conduct an inquiry.

The CWS is continuing to pursue its legal action and claims for damages against Mr Regan, 31, his business partner David Lyons, their companies Lanica Trust and Galileo, and Allan Green, the former CWS executive who has admitted to giving them numerous commercially sensitive documents. No further out-of-court settlements are expected.

Both Hambros and Travers Smith Braithwaite resigned yesterday as advisers to Lanica and Galileo. An increasingly isolated Mr Regan also lost the services of Lowe Bell, the public relations firm headed by Sir Tim Bell.

Peter Large and Andrew Salmon, the two Hambros corporate finance directors who acted for Mr Regan, are continuing to work for the bank, a spokesman said.

In a separate development, Ronald Zimet, the Anglo-Israeli businessman at the centre of a mysterious payment made during an earlier deal between CWS and Mr Regan's companies, resigned yesterday as chairman of the AIM-listed Freepages.

Mr Zimet, who is believed to be in The Netherlands, has declined to comment on the role he played in arranging the extension of a contract between CWS and Hobson, a food company owned by Mr



Ronald Zimet, right, with Robert Bonnier and Nigel Robertson promotes Freepages in 1996

Regan, for which he was paid £24 million through a British Virgin Islands company, Trellis International. CWS has asked the Serious Fraud Office to investigate the payment.

The resignation from Freepages severs Mr Zimet's only known connection with British business. A spokesman for Freepages said Mr Zimet was worried the publicity surrounding him was hitting the company's share price.

In his letter to Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros Bank, wrote: "Regrettably, I have to say that it is quite clear to me the judgment exercised in Hambros proceeding in the way that it did fell below our standards and those which you were entitled to expect from us. The purpose of this letter is to offer my personal, and the bank's, unreserved apology and to assure you that

we are taking the appropriate action to ensure that this will not happen again."

Alan Keat, the senior partner of Travers Smith Braithwaite, wrote to Mr Melmoth: "We regret that we were recipients of documents confidential to CWS and accept that our conduct did not accord with the standards which we set ourselves."

Pennington, page 31
City Diary, page 33

Regulators ask for Hambros report

BY JASON NISSE

THE Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority have asked for copies of the Norton Rose report into Hambros's role in the Galileo affair and may use it as the basis for action against the bank and its director, Peter Large.

Both regulators are concerned about the use of confidential information belonging to the Co-operative Wholesale Society in framing the bid. Any action would be taken jointly and sanctions could include a fine for Mr Large or Hambros and a possible suspension from the SFA for Mr Large.

He was formerly a top-rated stockbroker analyst in paper and packaging, joining Hambros less than two years ago from Swiss Bank Corporation, where he sat 20 metres from Brian Keelan, the CWS's adviser, in an open-plan office.

Mr Large had been with SBC for seven years, having been poached from Hoare Govett, the stockbroker. His departure, with a team of four, was controversial as he was called back by Hoare's lawyers to answer questions about confidential information that may have been taken when he left.

Halifax to warn members of float dangers

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Halifax will this week warn customers of the dangers of bypassing its free share-dealing service in the hope of making a larger profit.

It now seems likely that a higher than expected proportion of the £12 billion flotation may request share certificates in order to sell through stockbrokers. It is feared that this could imperil the smooth running of the Halifax's stock market debut on June 2.

The Halifax dealing service was set up for those who wished swiftly to sell their holdings. However, members may be discouraged by results of the first week of trading in Alliance & Leicester shares. Some 27 per cent of A&L customers decided to sell, and those using A&L's dealing service pocketed £1,334, while those using other brokers received as much as £1,405.

If a similar proportion of Halifax customers opt to take the money, two million people would be trying to deal at about the same time. It is feared that this would put private client stockbrokers under unbearable strain. Concern has been expressed over the ability of Crest, the already overstretched new system for share deals, to cope with this year's £22 billion building society share bonanza. Extra requests for share certificates would further increase pressure.

The Halifax yesterday pointed out that customers opting for share certificates and disposing of their holdings through other stockbrokers would not be covered by the "floor" price of 415p announced yesterday. This floor price will apply only to those selling through the Halifax dealing service on June 2, or in the first auction to institutional investors, on May 30.

Analysts say the Halifax price may range from 450p to 500p.

Leeds Utd chief quits over loss of confidence

BY JASON NISSE

ROBIN LAUNDERS, chief executive of Leeds United, yesterday resigned less than nine months after taking the job when he was told the board of Caspian, Leeds' parent company, had lost confidence in him.

His departure followed a meeting yesterday morning with Chris Akers, the former corporate financier who heads Caspian, and Peter McCormick, Leeds' long-standing legal adviser. Mr Launders will receive a pay-off of £150,000.

The fall-out between Caspian and Mr Launders comes at a critical time for Leeds United. It is trying to win the contract to develop the land next to its ground at Elland Road into an indoor arena which will house the Leeds Lasers, the ice hockey team being launched by Caspian.

However, it is believed that Leeds City Council may favour a rival bid from StradiVarius, a stadium development group led by Patrick Nally.

Recently Mr Launders has stopped attending meetings of the Premier League, with Mr Akers turning up instead. The League is in the early stages of deciding what it will do with pay-per-view television coverage of football, which is expected to bring as much as £2.5 billion into the game each year.

Leeds United has been seen as a radical voice in these discussions, and has talked about putting coverage of matches on the Internet on a pay-per-view or pay-per-listen basis.

City Diary, page 33

BSM takes a wrong turning over tests

BY FRANK NELSON

SHARES of BSM skidded by 27 per cent yesterday after the driving school company blamed the new written driving tests and severe January weather for a reverse in profits.

BSM said students were staying at home until they had passed the written test, leading to a 54 per cent drop in applications for the practical test.

To adapt to the reduced levels of demand, the company is closing 18 of

its 154 branches as part of a plan to save £1 million a year — a reversal of the expansion drive put into action four years ago. It will end the restructuring with almost the same number of centres it had in 1993.

Richard Glover, the chief executive, said that the market had not shrunk, but was going through a temporary reduction which would correct itself later in the year.

He said: "We misread the extent to which people would decide to get the

test out of the way before starting the practical course. Our share of the market has risen, but after this artificial barrier, the market as a whole has gone down. We are still sure the market will bounce back, but there's no indication of that happening yet."

He added that outlets being closed were in mostly in the areas where additional new ones had opened, allowing tuition to carry on without disruption. Also, he said applications for provisional licences — the main

indicator of the pool of learner drivers — had only fallen by 15 per cent.

The company does not profit from the theory test, which is being conducted by Capita, the services group, but can only make money from selling its range of study aids.

The company's shares, which have been steadily falling from 200p since September, dropped a further 38p to a new low of 103 1/2p yesterday.

Times, page 32



Glover: misread signs

JOHN DOE.

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□ Merchant bank that helped CWS raiders may pay high price □ Abell makes Panel look silly □ Investors rush to beat Labour

Hambros cops the Co-op rap

THE apology by Hambros to the CWS could not have been more fulsome. It will not, however, do anything to restore the damage done to the bank by its involvement in the extraordinary fiasco precipitated by the ambitions of Andrew Regan.

Neither will the stable-door closing exercise of bringing in solicitors Norton Rose to investigate the bank's role in the proceedings. Their findings may point the finger at those individuals who were guilty of misconduct, but those names have already been put in the frame by the righteously indignant Graham Melmoth and his CWS colleagues.

Blame cannot be confined to those at Hambros, led by Peter Large, who were in the front line of the bid. The bank's top management is guilty of the second worst sin in merchant banking. The first is to lose a lot of money; only slightly less dreadful, but potentially more damaging in the long term, is to display lack of judgment. That is just what Hambros has done. There were enough doubts in the City about the credentials of Mr Regan and his entourage for top brass at the bank to be wary of joining his gang. The decision to do so would not have been taken without the knowledge, and approval, of the bank's bosses. Having taken that dubious decision, they should have been watching for the first

signs of anything going awry, and have been ready to order a rapid, face-saving, exit.

Yesterday's mood of *mea culpa* comes too late. It will only add ammunition to those who believe that Hambros needs a drastic shake-up. Last year Hong Kong-based Jim Mellon bought a 3 per cent stake in the business and started calling for change. His Regent Pacific investment business glories in being dubbed a vulture fund. That should have given the board a sign that they might have to alter their comfortable existence if they were to survive. Instead, they rejected Mr Mellon's break-up proposals.

Now they may have to consider them again, for its latest indiscretions make Hambros look extremely vulnerable. For a start, it may like to rethink the decision to replace the plans for effectively crowning Sir Chips Keswick as both chairman and chief executive this summer. When Lord Hambro retires, Sir Chips, now chief executive of the group will succeed him and his own role will vanish.

Hambros was a once great

City name, but now makes more money out of estate agency than merchant banking. Little more than a decade ago, it was in the same league as Schroders, but astute management has seen the latter soar in stature, and profits, while Hambros has dwindled. Hambros itself needs new blood and new ideas, but not from the likes of Andrew Regan. Deputy chairman Christopher Spörborg recently revealed: "My motto in all things has always been to expect the worst and hope for the best." In the Co-op affair, Hambros should have expected the worst, and now seems likely to experience just that.

A very private concert party

FOR more than 30 years a collection of merchant bankers and lawyers, known as the Takeover Panel, has practised its dictatorship over one aspect of the City's activities. It is not perfect, but by comparison with most efforts at self-regulation, it does not do badly. The executive will make a decision and if



principals do not like it, they can appeal to the full Panel. And if the full Panel's decision is unwelcome, that is tough.

There have been questionable decisions. Ask employees of Northern Electric, which was delivered into the hands of American raiders when the Panel extended the bid after an indiscretion by Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Its latest ruling on Thomas Jourdan defies belief.

The Panel has decided that David Abell, the former head of Suter, was not in a concert party with his former financial advisor, Roger Devlin, and the Crutch family when they built up a combined 39 per cent stake in Jourdan, maker of the Corby trouser press. If Abell, Devlin

and Crutch had been in a concert party, then the Panel would have forced them to make a bid.

The Panel has now ruled that, as Devlin and co have recently decided to support Abell's attempts to be appointed to Jourdan's board, they are now in a concert party with Abell. This means Abell, who the Department of Trade and Industry once found not guilty of organising illegal concert parties, is not allowed to buy any more shares.

He does not need to do so. At the extraordinary general meeting next month, it would take an almost unheard of combined effort by other shareholders to block the way for Abell and his friends. The reason why the Panel makes the bidding threshold 29.9 per cent is that anything above that gives effective control if shares are widely held.

The Panel clearly has made a mistake. In this case it can do nothing about it. But it should change its rules so that if shareholders combine to form a concert party after taking their stake above 29.9 per cent, they have to make a bid at the price at which they most recently bought

shares. This would stop the sort of back door takeover which Abell is almost certain to perform at Jourdan.

Trust stampede shows distrust

DO VOTERS believe Labour's Tory lookalike policies? Judging from that usually reliable indicator, the feet vote, legions of small investors do not.

Conveniently, the election was called just before the end of the financial year. This set off a stampede to buy personal equity plans while stocks lasted. On paper, Labour is pledged to keep Peps. Investors took no chances. In the last five days of the old fiscal year, investors bought a net £800 million of unit-linked Peps alone, according to the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds: more than an eighth of the year's sales. As many are addicted to last-minute Pep-buying as to buying presents on Christmas Eve. But this year's election-beating five-day Pep rush was comfortably more than double the £366 million in April

1996, itself by a long way the previous record. In the wake of that self-generated rush, customers are being encouraged to take up their 1997-98 Peps before a Gordon Brown Budget.

Investors were hardly chasing a UK boom. The Bank of England had no need to tell them they could lose their shirts, as the US Federal Reserve plans to do. Most pundits forecast 1997 to be poor for shares. By the start of April they had fallen 5 per cent from a March 11 peak. Significantly, sales of European funds jumped 150 per cent in spite of the Morgan Grenfell affair.

Evidently, investors fear that the unspecified "improvements" that Labour promises for Peps will prove another case of better means worse.

Euro riddle

PUZZLE: the International Monetary Fund, scourge of budget deficits and fan of strong currencies, has just forecast that none of the top five EU economies will meet the Maastricht budgetary test for membership of a single currency. Yet IMF officials repeatedly emphasise that starting the euro on time is vital "to end uncertainty". Explanation: Michel Camdessus, suitably reluctant French candidate to head the European Central Bank, is IMF Secretary-General.

Spending worries hit shares in Chiro

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest biotechnology companies, lost nearly 5 per cent of their value yesterday in the face of an upbeat annual results statement.

While Chiroscience reported "excellent progress" with its local anaesthetic, its molecule manufacturing business and its recent acquisition of Darwin Molecular of Seattle, the City focused instead on the level of ongoing spending. Its shares fell 17p to 335p.

Spending on research and development increased by 84 per cent to £22.2 million in the year to February 28, pushing losses up from £11.6 million to £18.7 million. These figures were higher than most analysts had forecast.

One reason was the level of spending on levobupivacaine, the local anaesthetic, which Chiroscience believes has the potential to hit sales of \$1 billion a year. Levobupivacaine is an improved version of an existing Astra drug, which sometimes causes convulsions or heart problems. The Chiroscience drug is now

in extensive phase 3 trials, and the company hopes to file to register the product at the end of this year.

John Padfield, Chiroscience's chief executive, said levobupivacaine has a wide range of possible uses, including relief of post-operative pain and in eye surgery.

Dr Padfield said the acquisition of Darwin had already given Chiroscience important insights into the behaviour of its matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibitors, a class of arthritis and cancer drugs. Chiroscience hopes to produce a cancer drug with fewer side effects than marimastat, British Biotech's highly rated MMP inhibitor. Chiroscience intends to give a full scientific update on this and other projects at the end of May.

ChiroTech, the group's business that makes single isomer compounds for other drug companies, made its first profit of £1.2 million, improving from a £900,000 loss in the previous year. Sales rose strongly from £3.4 million to £9.2 million, helped by one of its customer entering phase 3 trials on one of its drugs.

This was the first time Chiroscience had split out ChiroTech's results separately. British Biotech and Celtech both eventually sold their third-party manufacturing businesses, and Dr Padfield hinted that Chiroscience may eventually make a similar move.

Chiroscience said the Stevenage plant manufacturing plant that it bought last year was already demonstrating value in producing material for clinical trials.



Padfield: hinted at sale

City Diary, page 33



Tony Hill, managing director of Surrey Free Inns, left, with Gerald Richardson yesterday

Pub chain sold for £11m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GERALD and Ann Richardson will collect about £4 million after selling their pub chain to Surrey Free Inns for £11.35 million yesterday.

The Richardsons own one third of Richardson Inns, which operates eight pubs, including a series of large cafés in the City of London and For Your Eyes Only, the UK's largest table-dancing venue.

The remainder of the company is controlled by Whitbread, which also owns a

4.5 per cent stake in Surrey Free Inns. Mr Richardson will join the board of Surrey Free Inns as an executive director and will invest £1 million in its shares.

Surrey Free Inns, which now operates 35 sites, said the purchase would improve operating efficiencies and buying power. It predicted that the acquisition would be earnings enhancing, adding about £1.5 million in profits in the first full year. Surrey is fund-

ing the purchase with a £12 million rights issue, offering one new share for every eight existing shares at 420p.

The company added that it will review the position of For Your Eyes Only with a view to selling the premises. Surrey made profits of £1.56 million on the 36 weeks to February 9. Shares in the AIM-listed company, which intends to transfer to the main market in the autumn, closed unchanged at 450p.

MGM in \$573m library purchase

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW JERSEY

MGM, the Hollywood studio, is buying Metromedia International's entertainment group and film library for \$573 million. The deal will add *Dances With Wolves* and *The Silence of the Lambs* to MGM's library, which includes *Midnight Cowboy* and the James Bond series.

The transaction involves Metromedia's 2,200-title film and television library and the production and distribution activities of its entertainment group, including Orion Pictures Corp, Goldwyn Entertainment Co and Motion Picture Corp of America. The acquisition more than doubles the size of MGM's library.

MGM, owned by a group of investors led by Kirk Kerkorian, will also acquire 12 completed movies and five direct-to-video features for future release. Metromedia said that the deal will allow it to focus on its telecommunications business, particularly its expansion in Eastern Europe and the Far East.

The transaction does not include Metromedia's Landmark Theatre Group, which has 138 screens at 50 locations throughout the US.

After the acquisition MGM's combined libraries will consist of more than 3,600 titles, making it the biggest collection of post-1948 movies.

Along with wireless cable TV systems, Metromedia's telecommunications operations include FM and AM radio broadcasting, paging services and various kinds of telephone services in Eastern Europe, former Soviet republics and other emerging markets.

In addition to movies, MGM has a 4,500-title home video library and a television library. Its operating units include MGM Pictures, United Artists Pictures, MGM Music and MGM Interactive. The deal is subject to shareholder approval and is expected to be completed this summer.

Former chief stirs up boardroom row at Premier

By CARL MORTISHED

ROLAND SHAW, the former chief executive of Premier Oil, is stirring up a row over an alleged conflict of interest in the presence of Sam Laidlaw, chairman of Amerasia Hess, on the board of Premier. Mr Shaw yesterday suggested that Amerasia, which owns 25 per cent of Premier, might wish to make a bid for the company and he questioned whether Mr Laidlaw should have access to board documents.

Mr Shaw intends to cast his 2.77 million shares against the re-election of Mr Laidlaw at Wednesday's annual meeting and he said: "If Amerasia wants to make an offer, will it do it in co-operation with management or will they fight it vigorously?"

In a letter published in today's edition of the *Financial Times*, Premier's chairman, Barrie Stephens, said that Amerasia and Mr Laidlaw were prohibited from voting on any contract between Amerasia and Premier. "Premier's rapid growth during the last year, particularly in the highly competitive South East Asian region could not have been achieved against a background of conflict of interest."

Mr Shaw, who resigned as chief executive in 1992 after a

two-year decline in the company's share price, said that Premier's interest in Burma was undervalued by the market and he blamed institutions for failing to address the underperformance.

"They run for cover if anybody suggests they should stand up and be counted," he said.

Tempos, page 32

New setback over tobacco

THE tobacco industry had another setback in the US courts yesterday when the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal against a Baltimore advertising ban.

A billboard company was challenging the city's ban on tobacco and alcohol advertising in residential areas, but the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, ruled that the construction allows flexibility on advertising if a ban is made to protect children.

The same court will hear a US Food and Drug Administration case to be allowed to regulate tobacco advertising.

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* 1992-1996 top performers, including British and American. Source: Investment Gap. Share prices 1992-1996. The top 5 performers on the Stock Market in each year. The results are not necessarily representative of the entire market. The results are not necessarily representative of the entire market.

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Bell Lines rescue plan ready

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

A RESCUE plan for Bell Lines, the troubled freight group based in the Republic of Ireland, is to be presented to creditors this week and put before a Dublin court for approval next Monday.

The package, drawn up by an examiner appointed in February by the Irish High Court, is believed to involve a debt write-off, the injection of up to £15 million in capital and 200 job losses. It is expected that haulage opera-

tors, who are owed around £17 million, will be offered between 120p to 140p in the pound. Trade creditors, who are owed £18 million, should receive 120p in the pound.

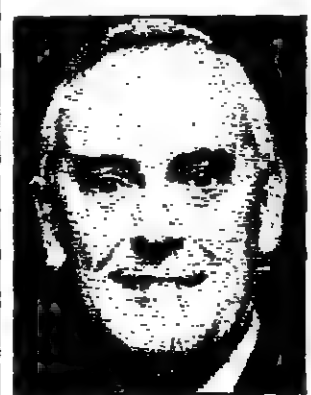
Of the proposed job losses, 70 will be in the Republic with the remainder coming from operations in Britain, The Netherlands, France and Germany. Bell, which recorded trading losses of £16 million last year, was badly hit by the Channel Tunnel.

It is expected that Irish Continental Group, the shipping company with a 25 per cent stake in Bell, will lead a consortium of investors who will inject £15 million into the company immediately as part of the restructuring plan.

It is still not clear whether venture capital funds - Nat-West Ventures and CVC Capital Partners each owned a 30 per cent stake in Bell - will be part of the new investment consortium.

Results cheer Grampian

By ERIC REGULY



MacLeod: digital investment

SHARES in Grampian Television, the ITV broadcaster in the north of Scotland, rebounded yesterday from their year low after the company reported record earnings.

A strong local advertising market helped Grampian to make pre-tax profits of £11.8 million, or 25.7p a share, in the year to February 28, up from £5.8 million, or 11.6p a share. Excluding a £4.7 million one-off gain on selling the Scot FM radio station, earnings per

share were 14.5p, against 11.6p. A 5.25p final dividend makes 7.25p, up from 5.4p.

The shares rose 17p, to 263p, after a 12-month low of 243p last week. Anthony de Larrinaga, analyst with Panmure Gordon, sees Grampian as still undervalued, and with the attraction of being a takeover target. Scottish Television is thought the likeliest suitor.

Cahm MacLeod, chairman, said Grampian is investing in digital broadcasting capability.

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Go-Ahead to board Brighton Bus

By FRASER NELSON

GO-AHEAD, the transport group, is to strengthen its presence in the South East of England by buying Brighton's second-largest bus company, giving it control over most of the town's public transport.

The company is paying £5.76 million for Brighton Bus, which was bought by its drivers, management and office workers for £320,000 four years ago. It already owns Brighton's Thameslink rail fran-

chise and Brighton & Hove, the town's main bus operator. The company is paying Brighton Bus employees 180p a share. The 250 workers who originally supported the buyout paid 10p a share. Half will miss out on Go-Ahead's offer having sold shares in the in-house market which last valued them at 48p apiece. The average payout will be £28,800.

Ian Butcher, finance director, said the company would dominate public transport in Brighton after the deal, but the

core area may be too small to warrant MMC attention. "We will just have to see how the MMC interpret 'area'. What people forget is that travel companies are competing all the time not just with each other, but with other forms of transport."

"We see most of our competition comes from cars, and we compete by improving value for money. There's a strong argument for having a single dominant operator because it lets you work much more closely with local government."

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Late surge fails to restore confidence of investors

SHARE prices were dragged higher to close at their best of the day. But it was a far from convincing performance in thin trading that saw fewer than 700 million shares change hands by the close.

A strong pound, gains of around a half point among government securities and an opening mark-up on Wall Street combined to provide the impetus for late advance that left the FT-SE 100 index 20.0 up at 4,389.7. It enabled the market to claw back all of Friday's losses but did little to restore investor confidence.

There was little genuine retail demand. Investors are proving reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of polling day and Friday's US non-farm payroll numbers.

There was a lukewarm response by institutional investors to first-time dealings in Cable and Wireless Communications, an offshoot of Cable and Wireless, up 7.5p at 479p. Videotron, Nynex Cablecomms and Bell Cablemedia.

The price opened at 300p and touched 306p before dropping to 294p. It later rallied to close 5p cheaper at 299p, as 7.5 million shares were traded. Brokers say fund managers may take to CWC eventually, switching out of the other American cable companies such as Telewest, 1.5p better at 90p.

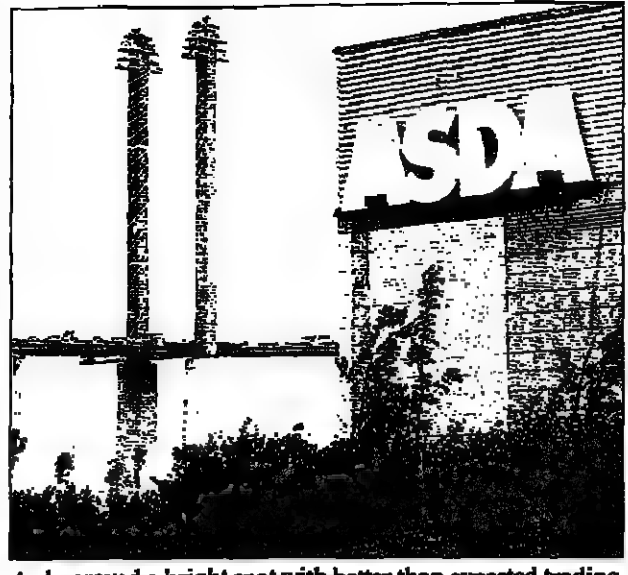
But there was a positive response to the news that the Government had decided not to refer the £1.3 billion bid by Williams Holdings for Chubb Security, 22.5p higher at 447p, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

City speculators moved in on Vickers, up 2p at 210p after last week's profits warning. They say the setback for profits leaves the group vulnerable to an unwanted bid from the likes of GKN, down 3p at 913p. The speculation was no doubt fuelled by recommendations on Vickers from BZW and Hoare Govett.

Rival HSBC James Capel is believed to be telling clients that a bid for Vickers is unlikely.

LucasVarley fell 6p to 183p after buying back a further 2.5 million of its own shares at 185p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, conducted the business.

Hambros saw its price touch 226p before "apologising unreservedly" to the



Asda proved a bright spot with better than expected trading

Co-operative Wholesale Society for its behaviour while acting as an adviser to Andrew Regan. The CWS is now taking legal action against Regan and others but has called off threatened action against Hambros which closed 5p better at 242p.

Shares of BSM went into reverse, falling 3p to 103p, after a warning that profits

may be American. Two years ago the Darlington-based nursing homes group rejected an offer of 330p a share from Sun Health Care.

News of the sharp increase in losses last year at Chiroscience left the shares nursing a fall of 17p at 335p. The company gave warning that the research and development "cash burn" would be higher than most brokers had been forecasting. It has been a difficult time of late for the food retailers although conditions may start to look up if a Labour government is elected.

That is the view of Philip Dorgan, food retailing analyst at Panmure Gordon, the broker. In a review entitled *Life Under Labour* he concludes that any alterations to corporation tax may prompt the supermarket chains to return

spare cash to shareholders rather than open more stores. But he remains neutral on the sector after a period of underperformance.

The one encouraging spot is Asda, 4p easier at 101p, which Dorgan visited recently ahead of its April year end. Trading has been better than expected and he has lifted his forecast from £337 million to £352 million. The figures will include a fifty-third week which should bolster profits by around £7 million.

But William de Winton at Hoare Govett remains cautious about the food retailers and fears margins continue to be eroded. Safeway, unchanged at 344p, is said to be vulnerable to margin pressure. Sainsbury firmed 1p to 324p. Tesco eased 1p to 303p and Somerfield shed 1p at 180p.

Quality Care responded to news of a bid approach with a rise of 3p to 31p where the company is valued at £43 million. Word is the bidder

is in line with the £1.6 million made in the first six months. Revaluation of Picaadilly, the Aim-listed retailer, celebrated its maiden payout with a rise of 5p to 54p. Full-year figures showed a fourfold rise in pre-tax profits with brokers pencilling in £750,000 for the current year.

Alfred McAlpine, up 4p at 167p, has emerged as the

Vulnerable targets are always under attack by the bears and Shield Diagnostics has proved no exception. Yesterday the bears sold it short down to 462p before the shares closed a net 47p up at 480p. The move follows last week's 35p fall in the share price in the wake of reports of share sales by the board.

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Another profits warning left WEW Group nursing a loss of 2p at 16p. The retailer expects second-half profits to be neutral after exceptional gains of £2 million. Profits will

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6711.38 (+12.51)
S&P Composite 77.26 (+0.71)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 15670.37 (+57.51)
Hang Seng 12510.17 (-35.95)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 749.76 (+2.88)

Sydney:
ASX 3461.7 (-13.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3393.00 (+14.21)

Singapore:
Straits 1996.79 (-22.81)

Brussels:
General 1254.56 (+73.23)

Paris:
CAC 40 2550.25 (+13.99)

Zurich:
SIX 993.50 (+7.88)

London:
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TEMPUS

Under the ground

CABLE and Wireless Communications is not a pretty stock market debutant. It consists of four companies — Mercury and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable businesses — whose fortunes have ranged from the mediocre to the disastrous. CWC begins its quoted career with virtually no profits, £1.3 billion in debt and a commitment to spend £2.3 billion over the next two years. Gearing will rise from 51 per cent to 95 per cent and shareholders will be lucky to see a dividend for five years. Finally, CWC has no brand; the Mercury name did not survive the merger.

But there is hope. CWC has enormous potential to grow. The cable networks are only half built; when finished, CWC will have access to six million homes. In an industry where content cannot exist without distribution, this asset could be invaluable. The

trouble is only one in four homes that has access to cable subscribers to the service. CWC needs to double that ratio if it is not to flop.

The key to success in the cable business is improving the range and quality of programming while reducing the cost of content. Hence the need for CWC to renegotiate supply contracts with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, which provides almost all of CWC's programming. The size of CWC's customer base will give it a powerful negotiating position but the big question is whether CWC is confident enough to stand up to BSkyB. The risk is that BSkyB refuses to deal on favourable terms, leaving CWC in a mad and costly scramble for alternative programming. A breakthrough on the programming side would give CWC a powerful boost. In the meantime, there is no hurry to buy.

BSM

NOT so long ago, BSM was rubbing its hands at the prospect of a written driving test but yesterday the directors looked as though their car had run into a lamppost. Last year's "opportunities arising from the new theory test are now described as an "unfortunate burden", "unnecessary barrier" and, in short, the Antichrist on parchment.

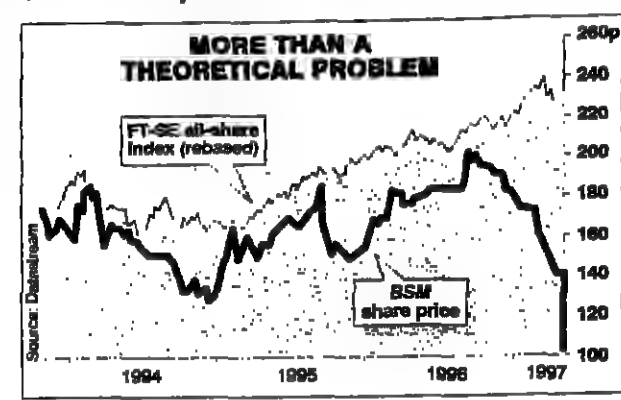
BSM, it seems, had become too accustomed to profiting from failure. The stiffer the test, went the logic, the bigger the revenues and BSM splattered the map with new driving centres in anticipation. Unfortunately, the Driving Standards Agency has required students to pass their written test before applying for the practical test, thereby delaying bookings

with the instructor. Moreover, the bookings compare poorly with last winter's rush to sit the test before the nasty written part was introduced.

It seems, says BSM, but ultimately no big deal. Students are bound to creep out from behind their books at some point, a question of when rather than if. But if BSM were truly confident,

would it shut down 20 outlets and make noise about cost savings. The share price suggests BSM was building for the boom that never was, now shutting shops as quickly as it opened them last year.

Investors must conclude that Britain's novice drivers are truly dim or something is seriously amiss at BSM.



Premier Oil

HELL HATH no fury like a chief executive scorned. Roland Shaw's very public attack on the composition of the Premier Oil boardroom, in which he once featured large, brings back memories of Tiny Rowland, another man who put his personal stamp on the company that employed him, not always to the liking of institutional shareholders. But behind the allegation of conflict of interest lies the more interesting question of bids.

Premier has been unofficially in play for months. A standstill agreement that kept Amerasia's 25 per cent interest in check came to an end last February, arousing speculation that Amerasia would bid or that Amerasia would sell. In the event, neither has happened and it is worth considering why. Since it acquired its stake, Amerasia has been building up its own South East Asian portfolio of oil and gas inter-

ests. The logic of buying out Premier has diminished just as the share price has advanced but, more important, Amerasia is an American company and Premier's big stake in Burmese gas is now a powerful deterrent to American investors, fearful of the proposed sanctions legislation.

Premier has made a specialty of investing in parish countries — Albania, Cuba, Burma — a policy that opens doors to interesting deals while closing doors to big investors. Even if Amerasia wants to sell, it may find buyers thin on the ground, at least until the US Congress decides how big a stick it wishes to wield against the Burmese generals.

McAlpine/Raine

ALFRED McALPINE wants to do its bit in the construction industry shake-out. For a modest £40 million, it proposes to take over Raine and create a £1 billion business

with strength in house-

building. It is hard to sum-up much enthusiasm for this prospect. Neither company entered negotiations with a strong record. It would be encouraging to see McAlpine make rather more progress at home before trying to sort out someone else's problems.

As for Raine, it has begun to emerge from a dreadful few years. Roy Barber, the "company doctor" who remains as chairman, recently handed over the chief executive's role to David Vincent. Mr Barber may feel his job is nearly done, but shareholders have scarcely begun to see what Raine can do. Surely a recovering business with annual sales of almost £400 million should be worth more than £40 million?

No deal is yet agreed, so neither McAlpine nor Raine have had a chance to explain their strategic thinking. It will need to be good.

How should you vote if you want to reduce the chances of a single European currency replacing the pound?

Assuming you do not live in a constituency which is winnable by the Referendum Party, the choice seems quite clear. The Times yesterday published a long list of parliamentary candidates unequivocally opposed to the single currency — and the great majority of these were Tories.

The obvious answer is to vote Tory, especially after John Major's sudden decision to offer his party a free vote. But often the obvious is wrong. Anyone who sincerely wants to preserve Britain's economic sovereignty and its democratic system of government, and who values these rights above tribal party loyalties, should vote Labour.

I touched on the negative reasons for such a judgment in the Economic View the Friday before last. I argued then that Mr

Why voting Labour could be best way to halt an undemocratic bankers' Europe

Major's promise of a free vote had made it more likely than before that a Tory government would lead Britain into EMU, since the Prime Minister would be able to rely on cross-party support for European policy, as Ted Heath had done in 1972. Let me now suggest a more important and encouraging reason why a Labour government might be more successful than the Tories in preserving Britain's economic independence — not just in the next parliament, but also in the longer run.

There are two critical points. First, keeping Britain out is only a second-best response to the challenge of EMU. A far better

solution would be to prevent Europe going ahead at all with a single currency, at least until anything like the undemocratic structure agreed at Maastricht. Until recently any hope of persuading the rest of Europe to abandon the Maastricht process seemed utterly forlorn, which is why Eurosceptics (myself included) have therefore concentrated on the second-best solution of keeping Britain out. We have known all along that any such reprieve was likely to be only temporary. If the single currency survived the initial uncertainties and crises, then Britain would almost certainly join the European superstate after 2002, under pressure from



the business community and the City, whether the Tories or Labour were in power. In the past few weeks, however, unexpected political developments have given hope of a last-minute reprieve from the whole

single currency disaster. The debate over EMU within Europe has been transformed — and has raised the possibility that a strong and united British government could exert a decisive influence on Europe for the first time since 1985-86, when Margaret Thatcher created the harmonised single market.

The second point to grasp is that the tide of European politics has reversed direction since the 1980s. The only people in Europe who can now stop a single currency are the leaders and voters of the social democratic Left. The parties of the Right in Europe have all fallen under the complete domination of Helmut Kohl and the German

CDU. The European Left, by contrast, has suddenly begun to understand the social costs and to question the political legitimacy of the "bankers' Europe" decreed at Maastricht.

This is most obvious in France, where the Socialists are moving on to an overtly anti-EMU platform in their election campaign. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, declared yesterday that "we should not enter the single currency without conditions", all of which he knew to be totally unacceptable to the German Government and the Bundesbank. In Italy a similar process may soon be under way. Even in Germany the Left is poised on a knife-edge.

A breakthrough for a reinvented Labour Party in Britain might be sufficient to inspire the SPD to abandon its tired, traditionalist pro-EMU leadership and reinvent itself as a new Labour under the more electable and Eurosceptic Gerhard Schröder.

In sum, a victorious Labour government — especially one led by an attractive, potentially even glamorous, young leader like Tony Blair — could create a new dynamic on the Left in Europe. It could give voters of the Left the confidence that the Right can be defeated and politicians the hope that a new kind of left-wing politics can be reinvented by abandoning the dogmas of the past. Does Mr Blair understand the role he could play in creating a dynamic, democratic "people's Europe" instead of the depressed, bureaucratic "bankers' Europe" of Maastricht? Perhaps not. But at least, under Labour, the opportunity will be there for a British Prime Minister to grasp.

'Good guys' spread the net in non-stop war on dirty money

Ian Brodie looks at efforts to put wrinkles on the ever-inventive face of international laundering

John Moscow, the senior assistant district attorney in Manhattan better known for his work on the global investigation of the collapsed BCCI (Bank of Credit and Commerce International), will address a London symposium today on the global implications of US fraud and money-laundering laws and how they impact on City banks and money houses.

A fellow speaker will be Rowan Bosworth-Davies, a former detective with the Metropolitan Police company fraud squad and now with Timmuss Sainer Dechert, the law firm hosting the symposium. He will tell delegates: "Any person who seeks to do business which involves the transfer of US dollars anywhere... must be aware of the draconian implications of American legislation for them and their employers."

Mr Bosworth-Davies points out that 60 per cent of the world's trade is conducted in US dollars and 99 per cent of those transactions, worth approximately \$3.5 trillion, clear through the New York bank-clearing system on any given day. Therefore that money, and those who transmit or receive it, falls under not just US Federal law but New York County law as well.

Just how quickly the US authorities can react on the international stage is illustrated by a recent case. A simple computer screen shows that a Nigerian woman suspected of working for a drugs ring deposited \$50,000 in a Dutch bank. A couple of clicks reveal a network of payments that she made and received. A few more clicks go deeper, uncovering remote links between her and a web of company and individual accounts that had otherwise seemed unrelated and had gone unnoticed.

In a matter of seconds, suspicious bank investigators have followed threads to dubious transactions that would previously have taken them days to untangle. The software, Syfact, is a new wrinkle in the changing face of money laundering. The makers claim it is the most sophisticated means of fraud protection.

The system was developed by Inter Access Risk Management of Hilversum and has been installed in the last year by four leading Dutch banks. It is also in use in the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba, a major money-laundering centre, and in Cyprus, a favourite trans-shipment point for the Russian Mafia's illegal profits. Several British banks are interested in Syfact.

Syfact may give the "good guys" an edge over the "bad guys", but experience shows that money launderers soon devise ways to counter the latest threat to their fortunes. Money laundering, the process by which drug revenues and other illicit profits are made to appear licit, is limited only by the imaginations of the launderers. Some £2 billion a year thought to be laundered through Britain where financial firms are obliged by law to take steps to prevent it, and face substantial penalties if they look the other way.

Typically, money laundering is a three-step process: placement: initial entry of illegal funds into the stream of commerce; layering: transactions calculated to conceal the funds' true source; and integration: injection of the money back into the economy in its disguised, seemingly legitimate form. Once laundered, it is as hard to distinguish as a needle in a stack of needles.

Drug cartels receive the most attention, but money laundering extends to a variety of organised and white-collar crimes, according to a new study by Michael Zeldin, former chief investigator for money laundering at the US Justice Department. He is now managing director in Washington for Defence Strategies International, specialists in safeguarding corporate clients against crime. He says the proceeds from dirty money support arms smuggling, insurance and bank fraud, counterfeiting, grey market sales, and international terrorism. When President Clinton issued orders blocking assets and prohibiting transactions with narcotics traffickers, his list included car dealerships, chains of chemists' shops,



Sharon Stone in Casino. Gambling is a much-favoured conduit for laundering

pharmaceutical manufacturers, chemical companies and import-export firms — all alleged fronts for washing Colombian cartel's drug profits.

Mr Clinton himself might have been stung by laundered funds. The FBI is investigating China's role in funneling money through Asian donors into his re-election campaign. Close to \$3 million is being returned as questionable.

Ingenuous laundering schemes have been uncovered in Britain: bearer bonds paid for in cash with false names;

casino chips bought for cash and turned in at the end of the evening for a cheque attributable to a winning; life insurance policies bought with cash and surrendered for a refund cheque; and fake invoices paid to shell companies overseas.

American investigators have just nailed a racket that used wire transfers, one of the oldest money-laundering devices. Cartels were sending \$1.3 billion a year back to Colombia through money remittance shops in New York catering to immigrants. The

torrent of cash indicated that immigrants must be wiring home the equivalent of their entire annual wages.

Then the US Treasury changed its rules and required remittance shops to report all transactions over \$750, rather than \$10,000. The law forced cartels to return to smuggling bulk shipments of cash in coffins, bowling balls and other crude hiding places. Customs agents were waiting — in three months they seized \$30 million.

Concerns are rising about

laundry online. The Financial Action Task Force, a group of 20 countries meeting in Paris, has given warning that the "speed, security and anonymity" of digital cash payments over the Internet could thwart techniques for tracking tainted money.

E-money payments are made over systems that allow customers to store funds on their hard drives or on computer chip cards and to transfer them electronically to merchants, banks, or indeed anyone around the world under the cloak of encryption.

The systems are still experimental. Launderers face the problem of entry and exit "choke points". How do they load a large amount of dodgy money into e-money accounts undetected and cash it out into real money at the other end?

Monex International, a London company that franchises its e-money computer card technology to banks and corporations, takes the threat of infiltration by money launderers extremely seriously.

Most banks transferring cash into digital money limit the amounts to no more than £300. That means a criminal would need hundreds of cards to launder a substantial sum. Ordinary cash might be simpler after all.

The Glasgow law firm of Semple Fraser has posted an Internet warning to British firms to be on the alert for money launderers to avoid the risk of heavy penalties. The laws compel companies to take preventive measures.

There are five money-laundering offences in Britain: concealment of funds derived from criminal conduct; acquisition of such funds; assistance in retaining or controlling the funds; failure to disclose a suspicion of money laundering; and tipping off a suspect about a police investigation into money laundering.

Lawyers, accountants and others handling transactions for third parties are encouraged to know their clients. They need to look out for money arriving from unexpected sources and be wary of anyone who is secretive about his or her identity or background. They must develop a sense of detecting anything that does not feel right.

As Semple Fraser puts it: "Those who choose to turn a blind eye to the legislation will assuredly risk an unwelcome and heavy penalty."

BUSINESS LETTERS

EBRD director rejects reports of lobbying by a Belgian faction

From the Director for Belgium, Luxembourg and Slovenia, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Sir, As the official representative of Belgium in the board of directors of the EBRD, I would like to protest strongly against the allegations in your paper (Business News, April 8, April 9 and April 11) pertaining to a so-called Belgian faction within the EBRD, lobbying against the possibility of an American candidate succeeding Ron Freeman as the EBRD's first vice-president.

In a statement to Reuters on April 8, I stressed that Belgium was fully supporting the process set up by Jacques de Larosière, EBRD president, to select and recommend to the

board of directors a first-rate banker with a profile as close as possible to that of Mr Freeman, who made a decisive contribution to the EBRD's successful development over the last six years.

I should also like to emphasise that a number of Belgians of outstanding calibre work within the bank and Belgium is proud of them. I can assure you that they all have the highest respect for Mr de Larosière's management and trust him to find a successor worthy of Mr Freeman.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD SNOY,
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development,
One Exchange Square,
London, EC2.

Speaking for the IoD membership

From the Director-General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, I don't mind criticism, but it would be more helpful if it was constructive (Pennington, April 24).

Pennington says that my outburst against Labour policy was hardly constructive. But he then goes on to say that our members may benefit from having a strong voice to speak on their behalf, particularly with an incoming Government.

Secondly, Pennington mocks my efforts to draw attention to the poor public perception of business and the values it adopts. But two thirds of the 2,500 people present at our annual convention agreed with me that it was a problem.

Perhaps Pennington should listen to them rather than to me. Yours faithfully,
TIM MELVILLE-ROSS
(Director-General,
The Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1).

Saver seeks windfall reinsurance

From Mr A. D. R. Holland

Sir, Having paid a windfall tax on a modest holding of bank shares, held for 40 years and levied by a Tory Government, it seems likely that an incoming Labour government will levy this populist form of tax on my utility shares, held since privatisation.

Having been a steady saver for about 40 years, it seems that I am about to receive a windfall on my long-term insurance policies. From reports in the financial press, it would seem the total windfall could amount to £20 billion, divided among as many as 20 million voters.

It would be reassuring if the main political parties would undertake not to tax these windfalls in the next parliament, except under taxes already in existence.

Will they give this unequivocal reinsurance, or is there a hidden agenda?
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
Windesham Manor,
Windesham,
Surrey.

Clutching at straws in the quest for success

From Mr Kenneth Armittage

Sir, The fact that Tom Peters has consistently failed in his "attempts to build a consultancy business on the back of his success" ("Fading fame of a management guru", April 10), only serves to prove the maxim that "those who can, do, and those who cannot, teach, or lecture".

The point about *In Search of Excellence* is, surely, that it was written at a time of recession, and when people are under pressure they will clutch at any straw that might make them feel that they are doing something to improve performance when, clearly, they have little or no control

over external circumstances, and certainly not in the short term.

Further, the Japanese management model, based on quality service and quality products to meet the demands of customers, appears to keep rumbling along whilst we, in the Anglo-American model, have gone through delayering, downsizing, business process re-engineering (BPR), empowerment and outsourcing to name a few and have still not succeeded to the same degree.

Yours faithfully,
K. P. ARMITAGE,
6 Deben Valley Drive,
Kesgrave, Suffolk.

Filling in new tax return proves not so taxing

From Miss Delia Twamley

Sir, I started with some trepidation on my new tax return 1996-97 in view of the unfavourable publicity. I was surprised how easy it is to fill in — and I have not read the accompanying guide. I had to telephone my local people-friendly tax office with two minor questions, which were answered, as always, quickly and efficiently; but I was surprised to learn that, as yet, they did not have copies of the forms that have been sent out.

On a less happy note I then had occasion to telephone a department of my stockbroker with a question. I was told that they could not answer any questions then as the "system had crashed" over the weekend and they had "gone blind". I was advised by the helpful, but actually helpless, man to ring again, and this I fully intend to do.

Yours faithfully,
D.W.B. TWAMLEY,
15 Chapel Close,
Oxford.

Double blow

THESE are trying times for Lord Hambro. Yesterday, his merchant bank was driven into issuing a grovelling apology to the Co-op over its role in the Lancia non-bid fiasco. But this ignominy can hardly have been more painful for the top Tory fundraiser than seeing Taylor Woodrow, where he is a non-executive director, putting up cash for the Labour Party.

The latest Taylor Woodrow report admits to a £5,000 political donation to sponsor a "Planning for

Prosperity" conference, a platform for new Labour speechifying. The company still gave its customary £25,000 to the Conservatives but was clearly keen to make a gesture of goodwill to the other side. Lord Hambro will be saved the difficulties of convincing the board to keep up the Tory donation next year: he is standing down from Taylor Woodrow's board at the annual meeting in June.

ON the subject of Taylor Woodrow, it is good to see that Keith Egerton, who runs the housebuilding flat, has reserved himself a £165,000 flat in the group's new development at The City Quay, overlooking Tower Bridge and but a stone's throw from The Times's offices. A case of "Le Patron habite ici."

Cable guy

EXTRAVAGANT claims from biotechnology companies are nothing new, but Chiroscience's John Padfield has a corker. Before the £120 million purchase of Darwin Molecular last November, Padfield had to make his pitch to the Seattle firm's board — including Bill Gates and Paul Allen, the founders of Microsoft. The Chiroscience boss turned up with his presentation on a laptop



computer — complete with slides based on the cover of Gates's book. But Padfield's heart was soon sinking when, with Gates and Allen looking over his shoulders, he could see no way of connecting the laptop to the office projector. Equally nonplussed, the software whizzkids sent for a technician. He was not needed. Padfield realised the problem was easily solved by switching round the computer cables. "Gee," quipped Gates. "You must know more about computers than we do!"

Away victory

A CLUE to Robin Launders's commitment to his job as chief executive of Leeds United, which he left yesterday, came last week when he and

Mark Corbridge, chief executive of Newcastle United, were both due to address a conference on Football and Finance. They found themselves on the same train down from the North which stopped at Peterborough and would not go on because of bomb scares. Corbridge manfully hailed a taxi and said he would fight his way into London while Launders merely scuttled back to Leeds.

First to go

RUMOURS abound that all is not sweetness at Queen Anne's Gate, the home of Hambro Magan which NatWest bought for £150 million last year. Odelle Griffiths, a managing director, has resigned and is leaving on Wednesday. She is the first senior Hambro person to go. Perhaps those golden handcuffs were just not strong enough.

Seoul warning

ANYONE else thinking of attacking Britain's suddenly beloved CWS might heed news from Seoul, where civic groups threaten a nationwide boycott of Coca-Cola over the Americans' treatment of Bum Yang Food, South Korea's main Coke bottler. Bum Yang has roused the nation's ire by claiming that Coca-Cola used new open competition rules to stop its 25-year contract and try to buy its assets at "extraordinarily" low prices in a "hostile takeover bid". Coke denies it is a bum deal.

Rank upset

OH DEAR, oh dear. My man on the taxi rank tells me of a small contretemps the other day between a large silver Mitsubishi Shogun and a London cab. The side-on collision caused considerable damage to the taxi whereas the Shogun appeared remarkably unscathed. Just as well really since it was a company vehicle about to be returned to its owner, one Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, by its former star employee, one Nicola Hortick. For the record it was the nanny who was at the wheel and not Nicola.



Nicola Hortick will be talking to her nanny after a collision



Lord Hambro saw his bank having to issue an apology

Self-employed ready to head off witch-hunt after election

By Rodney Hobson

GROWING concern over the status of self-employed people in the construction industry will be brought to the attention of Treasury ministers immediately after the general election.

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Business, said: "We have already made representations before the election were called seeking assurances that there would not be a witch-hunt against the self-employed."

"We are waiting to see who is in the Treasury on May 2 so we can take up the cudgels again. We are calling for the right for people to declare that they are self-employed and it should be up to the Inland Revenue to contest that at the Revenue's expense."

At issue is a campaign by the Inland Revenue and the Contributions Agency to reclassify as employed up to 500,000 of the 750,000 holders of 714 certification. These government certificates, issued to workers in construction and related work, have previously been accepted as proof that holders are genuinely self-employed. They act as sub-contractors, receiving payments without tax or National Insurance deducted.

Taking workers into employment costs a company about 15 per cent on top of the wages bill. Given the continuing depressed state of the

construction industry, workers are having to take pay cuts because employers cannot pass on the extra cost. Some of those affected claim that the Inland Revenue is effectively deciding when the rules will be enforced. The Revenue maintains that those who are genuinely self-employed have nothing to worry about. It offered an amnesty to companies that reclassified workers as employees, promising not to claim tax on previous years.

Barry Siasberg, who provides book-keeping and accountancy services to clients in the construction industry from his Northampton office, said: "For some 25 years, the Inland Revenue and the Contributions Agency have been practising the most flagrant, deliberate and inexcusable maladministration regarding employment status in the construction industry. They have created an employment custom contrary to legislation. A whole culture cannot be changed in a day."

Mr Alambritis said: "The Inland Revenue is afraid that there are 750,000 certificates in the system. This has arisen because the Government had been so successful over the years in encouraging self-employment. Our worry is that the Inland Revenue is under enormous pressure to cut back on spending and one of the sectors they can look at is small businesses, where they are raking in only small sums in tax."

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner in Grant Thornton, financial advisers, fears that some agencies supplying workers to the construction industry are in for a nasty shock. He said: "The National Insurance laws say that agencies who supply workers to the construction industry must also pay their NI contributions. However, until now, the taxman has not always chased this payment."

There are four million self-employed in the UK, about a quarter of the European Union total. More than half of them have turnover of less than £12,000 a year.



"I'm just looking at the list I made before the last election"

Spring role!

If you are self employed you will receive a Self Assessment tax return this coming Spring



Take away your own guide to Self Assessment now! Call 0345 16 15 14.

Tax perk: the Inland Revenue advert for self-assessment, with its play on words, that appeared on a Chinese takeaway carton

Adverts are topping on takeaway

By Rodney Hobson

AN IDEA ignored for more than six years resurfaced to show why some small business owners are more successful than others.

Richard Francis, managing director of Spiral Packs, explains how he made an already profitable company more successful. He says: "I was part of a team that bought out a company making lids for food cartons. I walked round the very clean factory and saw the product going through all white."

"I felt there was something wrong but I didn't know what it was. When I came back with the

buyout team it was mentioned in the course of discussions that six or eight years previously someone had thought about putting advertisements on the lids. The penny dropped. I saw the opportunity of adding value by putting colour where colour had not been before."

At that time Mr Francis was managing director of a textile company selling furnishings and his background was in designing so he had an eye for visual impact.

The result, Adlids, can be seen increasingly by buyers of takeaway meals. The UK has 17,000 Indian

and Chinese food outlets, more than 6,000 of them takeaways. The rest are restaurants that also supply meals to take home.

Adlids supplies nearly a billion food carton lids a year, sold through wholesalers. About 600 million go to Chinese and Indian takeaways. Advertisers pay £20 to £25 per 1,000 to adorn them, depending on the size of the order.

They can have a message distributed nationally or tailored to television transmission areas. So far, clients include the Inland Revenue, publicising self-assessment, the De-

partment of Transport, campaigning against drink-driving, Channel 4 Television, Tango soft drinks and Blackthorn cider.

To give outlets the incentive to use the lids, they are sold at a discount to the plain white ones.

Mr Francis says: "Our product guarantees impact. You have to look at the lid while you open the carton. There are 5.1 million takeaways sold each week largely to people with high disposable incomes."

Adlids: 0181-311 9000

Bank finds optimism among black entrepreneurs

By Brian Collett

BLACK owners of small businesses are the ethnic group most likely to write formal business plans, Barclays Bank researchers have reported.

They found that 56 per cent of those interviewed had produced detailed plans and that 60 per cent had undertaken vocational or practical training. They also found unexpectedly high confidence among black businesses, which probably resulted from careful start-up preparation. Among the respondents, 84 per cent were optimistic about their prospects and 79 per cent believed that ethnic minority businesses had an increasingly important role to play in the economy.

"It was one of the more surprising aspects of the research," said Peter Oatley, Barclays Bank's small business services manager. It contrasted with optimism among only 63 per cent of their white counterparts and was maintained in spite of the obstacles faced by black business people. Almost half said that they had suffered discrimination and 30 per cent said that they had become self-employed because they could not obtain work.

Another finding by the Barclays researchers was that, of the ethnic minority entrepreneurs, Asians worked the longest day - 11.1 hours on average.

The Small Business Bureau and NatWest have helped to set up the African Caribbean Westminster Initiative, with Lord Taylor of Warwick as its first president. The aims include establishing a business research centre, training non-executive directors and trustees, and promoting African Caribbean businesses.

BRIEFINGS

more staff in the past year, and a third intend to do so this quarter.

Worldgate, a new business support centre, has opened on the site of the closed Trentham Colliery, near Stoke-on-Trent, as a partnership involving Staffordshire University, the county's chamber of commerce, Business Link and training and enterprise council and private-sector companies.

Backing has come from the EU, local government and NatWest. Worldgate aims to encourage greater use of information technology by businesses.

A project to boost sales by small food and drink producers in western England is being launched by Taste of the West, a trade support group set up by Food from Britain and the National Farmers Union.

The West Country Cooking Project will feature *A Guide to West Country Cooking*, due out in the autumn, which will promote producers and restaurants.

A free booklet on business-to-business marketing in Europe is being offered by the PCMC marketing services company, of Reading, Berkshire. *The Guide to European Business-to-Business*

Direct Mailing looks at design, cultural differences and resource management. Call 0118-988 0400.

Business in the Community and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations have formed a task force to consider how companies, especially small and medium-sized ones, can work with voluntary bodies for mutual benefit. The move is a response to last year's Deakin Commission report, which found potential for better links between business and the voluntary sector.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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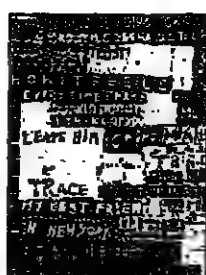
STANDARD & POOR'S 500 INDEX									
Standard Dev. 64.19 55.01 6.82									
RECENTLY									
High	71.71	62.51	1.01						
Low	62.51	55.01	0.88						
Current	70.42	61.70	1.52						
Standard Dev.	64.19	55.01	6.82						
UNITED STATES									
High	118.87	116.87	0.04	5.69					
Low	116.87	114.87	0.04	5.69					
Current	118.87	116.87	0.04	5.69					
Standard Dev.	118.87	116.87	0.04	5.69					
CANADIAN LISTED COMPANIES									
High	205.00	200.00	0.49	1.97					
Low	200.00	195.00	0.49	1.97					
Current	205.00	200.00	0.49	1.97					
Standard Dev.	205.00	200.00	0.49	1.97					
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■ VISUAL ART 1

Christine Borland
delves obliquely
into the dark
history of Nazi
science at the
Lisson Gallery



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while, at
the South London
Gallery, Tracey
Emin digs
into the traumas
of her own life

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ MUSIC 1

Sir Georg Solti
steers the LSO
through fine,
searching
performances
of Shostakovich



■ MUSIC 2

... and Maurizio
Pollini brings
his customary
intensity to
a Beethoven
piano recital

Get some bones, get a life

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork visits shows by two pioneering women, one macabre, one autobiographical

Like the reincarnation of a figure from the darkest Jacobean tragedy, Christine Borland is obsessed with bones. But her approach is more forensic than ghoulish. In the early stages of her most haunting work, she was astounded to discover that it was possible to order a real human skeleton through the post. Having paid £900 and received her grisly mail-order acquisition, she set about using crime detection methods to discover the identity of the corpse.

Helped by an osteologist, Borland carefully reassembled the bits and pieces. They revealed that the bones were those of an Asian woman who died at the age of 25 after at least one pregnancy. So for an eerie yet compassionate exhibition in Glasgow, where Borland lives and works, she juxtaposed the bones with a blow-by-blow display of her investigative process. It culminated in a bronze reconstruction by forensic scientists of the dead woman's face — a poignant, post-humous tribute.

Nothing so shocking can be found in Borland's first one-person London exhibition. Throughout the aply clinical white rooms at the Lisson Gallery, though, the same dedication to a methodical uncovering of the past is detectable. In the most substantial work, *L'Homme Double*, six clay heads by different artists are positioned on plinths. They were commissioned by Borland, who asked each of the sculptors to make a traditional, lifelike portrait of the infamous doctor, Josef Mengele.

Photographs and verbal descriptions of the Nazi war criminal were supplied, but they testify only to his maddening elusiveness. No wonder that the sculptors, confronted by such an enigma, have produced heads notable for their grey, academic sobriety. Although Borland told them that the information she supplied "can be interpreted as freely as you wish", the main differences between them centre on the presence or absence of a moustache and a tie. The macabre and repulsive nature of Mengele's atrocities is wholly at odds with the conventional decency of the faces on view here.

All the same, there is no doubting Borland's readiness to confront and explore even the most gruesome aspects of life. The emotional

commitment behind her, seeming coolness erupts in the small room next to *L'Homme Double*, where two battered chairs carry photocopies of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. We are invited to sit down and read them, and on their covers Borland has printed an impassioned quotation from *Paradise Lost*: "Did I request thee, Maker, From my clay To mould me man? Did I solicit thee From darkness to promote me?"

Wandering through the rest of the show, we come across fragmented manifestations of Borland's intense, governing concerns. Some might easily be overlooked — like the replica of a 38 Government Colt Automatic visible, as a blurred form in a blue-striped plastic bag, at the bottom of the shadowy basement stairs. Borland prefers understatement to the rhetoric of Milton or Shelley, and the first-floor gallery yields its contents slowly. The room is in darkness. Here, embedded in the concrete floor, are a dozen brilliant-cut diamonds.

They look randomly scattered at first, but then spectral suggestions of a human form become apparent around them. It seems on the verge of disappearing. But the diamonds turn out to pinpoint its anatomy with surprising precision. They are also another means of reminding us that our bodies can be bought and sold like jewels or any other commodity on the market.

Borland's awareness of corporeal fragility is conveyed most clearly in *Bison-Bison*, a work that takes as its springboard an experiment described in *Gray's Anatomy*. On



Uninhibited scenes from a painful life: *Taci Min* by Tracey Emin

the long central table, the animal's astonishingly elongated vertebrae extend from one end to the other. It is an awesome spectacle. But Borland has extracted the bones' organic compounds. As a result, they become as light as paper and look ready to crumble at a touch. Towards the far end they have already turned into blue-tinged powder, whereas the bison ribs on the other two tables are orange and surprisingly supple. Their mineral compounds have been removed, leaving them so soft that the artist was able to twist some of the ribs into knots — an unexpectedly playful gesture that highlights the wry, dry humour underlying an exhibition riddled with intimations of morality.

Tracey Emin, another of the young women who play such a prominent role in the new British art, shares Borland's feeling for vulnerability. But everything in her show at the South London Gallery is focused unabashedly on Emin's

own life. Furniture, drawings, photographs, paintings, written texts, found objects and videos are all candidly employed by an artist who calls her exhibition *I Need Art Like I Need God*.

Everything on view here is presented as part of Emin's salvation, her way of exorcising the traumas of the past. On one of the brazenly revealing videos, her mother admits that she thought the adolescent Tracey "would have gone to the dogs if you hadn't gone to art school".

Emin talks frankly on video about the time she was raped, and concludes that "for me my childhood was over". She describes her moments of depression, and attempted suicide, how schoolkids taunted her with racist abuse, and the anger she still feels about her abortion.

Nothing, it seems, is excluded from this startling and raw self-exposure. In another artist's hands, the outcome could easily degenerate into an intolerable form of narcissism. Against all the odds, though, this show does not feel self-indulgent. For one thing, Emin never makes the mistake of raising herself above criticism. Her feelings of guilt and envy are freely exposed in a white partitioned room at the centre of the gallery, where she recreates an installation produced in Stockholm last year. The discarded paintings inside, including blue body-prints unacceptably close to Yves Klein's work, are often inscribed with messages and exhortations, directed either at friends or herself. Perhaps the most germane is the

command boldly telling Emin "Not To Be Afraid. Most Of My Life Has Been Built On Fear".

Judging by the uninhibited mood of the exhibition as a whole, Emin succeeds in obeying this injunction. Her often searing book of memoirs has been published under the heading *Exploration of the Soul*, and a panoramic colour photograph shows her clutching it in Monument Valley during an epic trip across America.

There is no suggestion, at any stage in this labyrinthine voyage through Emin's history, that she has reached a plateau of serenity. Bitterness frequently explodes, above all in some accusatory prints scrawled with outbursts like "You Were Not Men You Were Less Than Human". On these occasions, Emin's writing becomes as direct and raw as the graffiti she admits to scrawling on the sea wall at Margate. In another mood, however, she is capable of drawing small, tender images of birds.

Her command of line is impressive, especially in some spidery nudes and street scenes reminiscent of German and Austrian Expressionism. But Emin's work is so dartingly various that it cannot be categorised with ease. Binding all these offerings together is a confessional urge, and Emin shows no sign of exhaustion in her compulsive, versatile attempt to turn the messiness of life into art.

Christine Borland at the Lisson Gallery (0171-724 2739) until May 10; Tracey Emin at South London Gallery (0171-703 6120) until May 18

Nothing is excluded from her raw self-exposure

AROUND THE GALLERIES

DAVID HISCOCK is certainly not the only painter who has taken photographs (or vice versa), but he is unique in the quality of his thought about the relationship between the two activities. Although he began with works which combined photography and painting, recently he seems determined to let his media develop separately, and yet all that he does brings them closer and closer together. *Strokes*, his new show at Purdy/Hicks, is in two parts, "Landscapes", which are fundamentally photographs, and "Interiors", which are fundamentally paintings. The two seem to have started at opposite ends and gradually met in the middle through the unifying force of Hiscock's own powerful vision. Hiscock is a true original, and his art exerts the same haunting power whatever medium he chooses to work in. *Purdy/Hicks, 65 Hopton Street, Bankside, SE1 (0171-401 9229), Tues-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until May 17.*

REMEMBER those freshly coloured prints of clipper ships under full sail in Uncle Fred's hallway? Like as not they were taken from paintings by Montague Dawson (1895-1973). It is the sort of art which tends to bypass critics completely, while going straight to the heart of those with romantic fantasies about the flung spray and the blown spume and the seabirds crying.

Dawson was an experienced sailor who could be trusted to get his facts right in the most minutely documentary work, such as he did in the Second World War for *Sphere* magazine; he was a keen historical researcher as well. Frost & Reed's retrospective is a timely reminder of an artist working with dash and flair. *Frost & Reed, 2-4 King Street St James's, SW1 (0171-839 4645) Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, until May 23.*

MARO GORKY is so well-connected that it is amazing she is the fine, free-spirited artist that she is. She is the daughter of Arshile Gorky, leading (if eccentric) New York Abstract Expressionist. And she is married to Stephen Spender's artist son, Matthew. But Gorky goes firmly in her own direction, ignoring the world around her. Not totally ignoring her physical environment, however, since though she is becoming increasingly abstract, she is still fundamentally a landscape artist. Her most recent work at Long and Ryle continues at once to simplify and elaborate on the natural scene. And the vibrant colour harmonies are all her own. *Long and Ryle, 4 John Islip Street, SW1 (0171-834 1434) Tues-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 2-5pm, until May 17.*

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CONCERTS: Double dose of Beethoven on the South Bank; centenary celebrations in Sussex; and Solti sheds light on a Shostakovich symphony

Played at heroic length

Maurizio Pollini
Saito Kinen
Festival Hall

Beethoven loomed large at the Festival Hall over the weekend. Seiji Ozawa and the Saito Kinen Orchestra devoted half their programme on Saturday to him, and the evening before Maurizio Pollini returned for the fifth recital in his seven-part cycle of the composer's 32 piano sonatas.

By chance it was not just "any" Beethoven: everything we heard was written within a concentrated six-year period at the beginning of the 19th century. Unlike many pianists, Pollini is tackling the sonatas in chronological order, and he played the five sonatas Op 54 to Op 81a, which date from between 1804 and 1809, the time of the Napoleonic Wars and two humiliating French occupations of Vienna. The *Eroica* Symphony was written in 1803 and dedicated to Napoleon, but the following year an enraged Beethoven famously tore out the title page when Bonaparte proclaimed himself Emperor.

This was the time of Beethoven's "heroic phase", when his music began to break new, uncompromising ground, and in stimulating performances Pollini emphasised the revolutionary aspects of these works. Sometimes recently this modern giant of the keyboard, renowned for both the techni-

cal brilliance and intellectual stature of his playing, has appeared to have "gone respectable" with "safe" performances: not here, where the outwardly conventional sequence of three movements in the *Appassionata* concealed raging turmoil. After an intense, inward-looking opening, Pollini played up the insistent knocking of fate, and followed it with a lament that was swept away by the swirling finale.

In Op 81a, *Les Adieux*, Pollini gave another newly exciting interpretation of very familiar music. He was just as satisfying in the less frequently played Op 54 in F, where he made light of the second movement's *perpetuum mobile*, and he caught the capricious freedom that dominates Op 78 in F sharp. But he was most interesting in the "little" sonatina-like Op 79 in G: he rushed headlong into a very fast Presto opening, and revelled in the humour of the finale. The simple Italianate lyricism he brought to the Andante made this unsophisticated movement one of the evening's highlights.

These kinds of revelations were exactly what Ozawa's performance of the *Eroica* lacked. Indeed, the only revolutionary aspect of the music he drew attention to was its length: at the time of its composition, Beethoven's Third was by far the longest symphony ever written. Otherwise this was a heavy and old-fashioned account, without the spiritual dimension great conductors of the past have brought. Some wayward winds apart, though, this disciplined performance had great unanimity of attack, and the weighty sound suited the dark funeral march of the second movement well.

Undoubtedly, the special glory of the remarkable Saito Kinen Orchestra — its mostly Japanese players are either members of major Western orchestras or internationally established soloists — is its strings, and they got an opportunity to shine in the string orchestra version of Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*. Their carefully moulded sound underlined the work's lyricism, though never at the expense of its haunted expressionism. Ozawa was at his best here, in a taut performance which also showed just how close Schoenberg was to the spirit of Beethoven.

JOHN ALLISON

Old pals' music act

EMI Centenary Gala
Glyndebourne

Old loyalties were to the fore in Sunday's gala for EMI's hundredth birthday this year. Glyndebourne was the appropriate choice for the first of three centenary concerts — two non-operatic evenings follow later. EMI came to record the pre-war Mozart performances in Sussex and the links have remained ever since. And there on stage as master of ceremonies for the high-priced occasion — top tickets £750 — was Nicolai Gedda, first signed for EMI by Walter Legge 46 years ago.

Gedda ruefully remarked that he was making his house debut, but many of the other singers on parade were old Glyndebourne hands. Some, like Alison Hagley, who gave ethereal tone to Nannetta's aria from *Falstaff*, had come up through the Festival chorus. Others, including Thomas Hampson, had made their reputations long before reaching the Festival Opera. Hampson also chose *Falstaff* and sent the sparks whizzing through the house with Ford's Vengeance aria. Hampson has the art of coming on cold and grabbing the audience within seconds.

Before taking over his MC function Gedda launched into Danilo's entrance aria from *The Merry Widow*, proof that

at 72 he can still get his larynx around Lehár. Plenty more operetta was to come, reminder of a dedication to this section of the repertoire, which was started by Legge and echoed by EMI's French arm.

Felicity Lott chose *Messager*, all saucy flirtatiousness as a lady from Le Bal Masqué who revels in having two lovers on the go. Nathalie Dessay, a dashing young French coloratura recently signed by EMI, then made it plain that if the English knew all about boulevard operetta, she was an ace at American musicals. She mocked and dazzled in *Glitter and be gay* from *Candide*, showing the same Hampson ability to mesmerise the house without ado. Barbara Hendricks was less successful in Lehár's *Giuditta*.

And so to opera proper. Amanda Roocroft revealed a new and sensuous weight to her soprano in Dvořák's *Rusalka*. Gedda said that it gave him pleasure to introduce not one but three tenors — adding mischievously "three young tenors, not old ones". Ian Bostridge gave delicate tone to Tamino's aria



Gheorghiu and Alagna

from *Die Zauberflöte*. And finally came Roberto Alagna. He has just sung his first Werther in Toulouse and chose *Pourquoi me réveiller*, the voice taking a few bars to clear before Massenet's emotional melancholy was given full blood. He was joined by Angela Gheorghiu for the close of Act III of *Manon*.

Andrew Davis and Franz Welser-Möst, both in top form, shared control of the LPO. Then the audience went off for dinner while the finishing touches were put to the CD of the occasion.

JOHN HIGGINS

He's got rhythm

LSO/Solti
Barbican

And still we want to know what it all means. Shostakovich's symphonies continue to draw out brow-furrowing speculation in programme note and commentary, and nowhere more so than in the Fifteenth and last. Here are references to Wagner, to his own Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Symphonies — then, just as you were enjoying one of those teasing little dances macabres, a blast of *William Tell* bursts out from the brass.

Sir Georg Solti's lacerating rhythmic precision, and the momentum with which he drove Shostakovich's sequence of events and allusions, created a compelling longer view of the work. One left remembering the power of the whole.

The assurance with which he built towards the climax of the second movement, through a progression of fine solos from the London Symphony Orchestra's principals, was an important part of the process. And the tense, unquiet undertones which he maintained throughout the murmuring and pulsings of the final Adagio already scented out the total abstraction of the symphony's ending, where nothing but reverberation remains.

As for all those worrying quotations... the Lithuanian

poet-in-exile, Czeslaw Milosz, once wrote that, in order to live in a totalitarian regime, one must be either a schizophrenic or an actor. These, surely, are Shostakovich's last masks: the early memories of Rossini, whirling into big-top bravado in the prancing circus of life; the necessary ambiguities of pomp and circumstance; the brief but ubiquitous assertion of identity in the little DSCH signature tune, here as dark and numb as it ever appears.

In Charlotte Hellekant's performance, earlier in the evening, of a selection of songs from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, there could be little debate as to meaning. The Swedish mezzo-soprano gave a vividly projected performance, her idiosyncratically accented German lilting with the movement of her body in a folksy *Rheinlegendchen* and an almost caricatured *Sermon to the Fishes*. It was difficult for Hellekant to find either the vocal or spiritual stillness necessary for the visionary *Urlicht*, and she seemed only truly at ease again in the earthy little fable of the cuckoo and nightingale.

HILARY FINCH

LAW

Abused and exploited

Aid for child prostitutes is required urgently, says Allan Levy, QC

Child prostitutes, some as young as 12, can be seen regularly on the streets of our cities. Recent reports by social workers and police officers, information presented at the Children's Society's national conference last month and the publication of an invaluable book *Child Prostitution in Britain* (edited by David Barrett, published by the Children's Society) have made the plight of these children known to many more people.

Though the facts have produced expressions of outrage and sympathy, not much progress has been made in providing effective remedies. In particular, the application of the laws covering this area is flawed. The civil law contained in the Children Act 1989 is significantly underused and the criminal law is being wrongly targeted at the children, rather than at those who are exploiting them.

Child prostitution may be defined as the provision of sexual services by those under 18 in exchange for some form of payment, such as money, drugs, other consumer goods or even a bed for a night.

Information as to the prevalence of child prostitution in Britain is fragmentary. National data is unavailable, as is a national picture. A former president of the Association of Directors of Social Services has suggested that charities are exaggerating child prostitution in order to attract funds.

In a letter to *The Times* (March 8) Barry Sheerman, MP, challenged this view, based on information he had gathered from the police, university researchers and social workers. He called for a proper evaluation, "speedily followed by steps to protect children from this particularly unpleasant form of abuse."

We know that between 1989 and 1995, 2,380 cautions were issued and 1,730 convictions were secured in regard to those under 18 in England and Wales for offences relating to prostitution. It is probable that at least hundreds of children in Britain are involved in prostitution.

Who are these children? A Council of Europe report in 1993 referred to emotionally damaged youngsters from broken homes, runaways, drug users and street children. Studies in Britain point to young runaways from their own homes and from placements in care. The Children's Society's 1994 study found that most ran away before the age of 16 and that one in seven of



Jodie Foster in *Taxi Driver*: a picture of innocence that belies the horror of children coerced into the sex industry

these young people had provided sex for money. Those involved preferred to refer to the experience as a "survival strategy" rather than prostitution.

Keith Hellawell, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, has recently referred to heroin addicts as young as 12 turning to prostitution. Half of all prostitutes are now thought to be drug addicts and the average age of prostitutes was falling to about 17.

There is increasing evidence to link childhood sexual abuse with prostitution. David Barrett of Luton University, a leading academic, says that "a perpetrator within a family may cause the young person to flee the family home to be exploited by other perpetrators (although even some parents 'work' their children as prostitutes)".

The law has an important role to play in this area. Internationally, Article 34 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK and more than 180 other

countries, places the responsibility on the individual country to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. This includes child prostitution and the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

In 1995 the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva recommended that the Government should address the issue of sexual exploitation of children here as a matter of urgency.

Domestically, a vital role falls on local authorities. The Children Act 1989 provides them with sufficient powers to be able to try to deal with the plight of the child victims. The authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in need by providing an appropriate range and level of services. They must take reasonable steps to prevent children within their area suffering ill-treatment or neglect. Additionally, they must

investigate whether they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who is in their area is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm.

They can, for instance, take care proceedings, including emergency steps, in respect of a child. This formidable legal armoury is, unfortunately, being underused by many local authorities. They do not appear to be helping children in any effective way.

The problems with the criminal law are different. The provisions have been enacted piecemeal with no overall strategy or co-ordination. Even where effective, they are being used against the children rather than against those who exploit and abuse them.

There are signs that some police forces now recognise that treating children as victims and not criminals is more likely to divert them from prostitution. There is now strong evidence that the policy should be one of prevention and that protection proce-

dures, rather than prosecution, should be used.

There is a need for a wider recognition of the seriousness of the problem of child prostitution, and a high-level review of the role and content, particularly as to sentencing levels, of the law.

● The author is a specialist in childcare law.

● VOTE CRAZY 43
● LAW REPORT 48

Europe the key to new labour laws

During the past 18 years, employment lawyers have never had it so good. Employment departments in law firms thrive, membership of associations such as the Industrial Law Society and Employment Lawyers' Association is on the increase, and there is no end to conferences and seminars on aspects of employment law.

This is a curious state of affairs. Apart from controls on the unions, where the Conservatives have legislated freely and dramatically, successive administrations since 1979 have been committed to the deregulation of employment law.

Although there have been some successes, such as the abolition of wages councils in the Wages Act of 1986, the goal of deregulation has largely been thwarted by the need to implement European labour law standards.

The so-called opt-out from the Maastricht treaty has not substantially affected this, because the bulk of legislative activity in the field of European labour law has concerned directives subscribed to long before Maastricht, often as a result of European Court of Justice rulings, such as the Acquired Rights Directive, Redundancies Directive and Equal Treatment Directive.

What new employment laws can we expect after May 12? At first glance, both Conservative and Labour manifestos lack detail, although Labour has published a separate business manifesto.

The Conservative manifesto leads with a proposal to curtail strikes in essential services. Legislation would be introduced to remove legal immunity from industrial action which has a disproportionate or excessive effect. Members of the public and employers would be able to take legal action in these circumstances.

Also, strike action would have to be approved by a majority of members eligible to vote (not just those voting) and ballots would have to be repeated at regular intervals if negotiations were extended. No change of philosophy here.

Of no surprise either is the pledge to continue to give the EU's Social Action programme a wide berth.

Finally, there is a pledge to negotiate exemption from the Working Time Directive. This last promise, the employment law equivalent of a call for a "beef war", is, in all likelihood, unachievable, notwithstanding the UK's threat of non-cooperation at the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam in June. Some cynics have observed that fighting a law that guarantees a minimum holiday of four weeks per annum and prevents a working week of more than 48 hours without an employee's consent is

unlikely to be the most vote-catching of Tory proposals.

Labour's manifesto is equally brief. Gone are proposals such as part-time workers' rights age discrimination; the review of the unfair dismissal qualifying period; the review of the unfair dismissal compensation cap of £11,300 and the end of abuse of zero hours and self-employment status contracts.

But will these detailed issues surface as concrete policy if Labour wins the election? Apart from the minimum wage and the commitment to training and reducing unemployment, the main manifesto also includes the right of employees to have their trade union recognised if a majority in the workplace vote for recognition — the most eye-catching of Labour's recent "business" proposals.

The party has pledged, in the main, not to return to pre-1979 collective labour laws, and not to restore full immunity for industrial action. But the return to compulsory recognition of trade unions is clearly old wine in a new bottle.

There is already anecdotal evidence of employer concern. But another view holds that compulsory recognition of trade unions may have less of an impact in the 1990s than in the 1970s.

For the purposes of transfer of undertakings, collective redundancies and the duty to consult the workforce on health and safety issues and the appointment of safety representatives, European law

has meant that where an employer does not recognise a trade union, information and consultation obligations must be discharged in favour of elected employee representatives (or, in health and safety, employees direct). Since March last year, non-unionised workplaces have been drawn into areas that previously only involved them if they recognised trade unions, so the impact of recognition may be less dramatic.

Labour's manifesto for business adds one more item on the collective front. This is protection against unfair dismissal for all employees sacked while lawfully on strike — an advance on the present law where only those selectively dismissed may claim.

Whatever the complexion of the next government, there is a substantial corpus of European labour law already binding in the UK. Its continued appraisal and re-interpretation by the European Court of Justice will mean that labour law will continue to be an evolving and dynamic subject irrespective of any party's domestic legislative agenda.

● Dr McMullen is National Head of Employment Law at PricewaterhouseCoopers and a Lecturer in Law at the University of Leeds. He has just published *Redundancy: The Law and Practice*.



JOHN McMULLEN

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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A senior lawyer (4-7 pps) is currently sought by the legal department to support the investment banking business. The emphasis is firmly on a proactive approach by the bank's lawyers who spend much of their day working on the trading floor, advising on transactional structures. A strong character and the ability to exercise judgment quickly and decisively will be essential. City trained solicitors with experience of M&A financing, primary market issuance and securities listing would be ideal, preferably with some exposure to cross-border transactions. The role will also provide opportunity for management responsibility.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Kirkman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

Saville for law lord?

ONE OF the first tasks for an incoming Lord Chancellor will be appointing a law lord to replace Lord Mustill. Hot tip is Lord Justice Saville who, like Lord Mustill, has a commercial law background, or possibly Lord Justice Rose.

Lord Mustill recently opened the Centre for Corporate and Commercial Law in Cambridge University's law faculty. At 66, he is well off retiring age — but is thought, after 19 years on the Bench, to favour a change.

Women's scoop

WOMEN might not be making it to partnership level but the City of Westminster Law Society has managed to scoop the board at its annual dinner with other professionals. All the after-dinner speakers — and most guests — were women, including Baroness Symons, former general secretary of the First Division Association, Mary Spillane, the US image consultant and Anne Fuller,

who chairs the Magistrates' Association. The idea was Sue Nelson's, the society's first woman president, who says there have been years when there was no woman speaker and even years "without a single woman official guest".

● Theodore Goddard reports that its Website, launched six months ago, has had more than 90,000 "hits". The firm's William James says that the page is popular with both law firms and other "surfers".

CV time

A NEW American law firm to send those CVs to Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, a Washington firm, has taken on 4,000 sq ft in London and persuaded John Edwards, a former Linklaters & Paines partner who took early retirement in January, to help to build a London practice.

Keith Hughes, resident partner, says: "I will be disappointed if, by year-end, we do

not have some English lawyers in the office."

Top scorers

THE breaking of the deadlock in the dispute over the future of the third-division club Brighton and Hove Albion's board was due to the mediation role of the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR).

The Football Association asked CEDR to intervene when crowd violence over the dispute threatened public safety. After 20 weeks of arduous mediation, CEDR last week announced details of the settlement, agreed by the owners Bill Archer and Greg Stanley with the consortium led by Dick Knight.

The two mediators who can take the credit were Bill Marsh and David Richbell, both CEDR directors.

● Ross Cranston, the London School of Economics professor fighting the safe Labour seat of Dudley North, is likely to

form part of Labour's law team if the party wins on Thursday. A professor in commercial law, he would balance the criminal experience of the Shadow Attorney-General, John Morris, QC, and, lawyers say, would make an excellent Solicitor-General.

Merger mystery

THE much-heralded transatlantic merger between an American and a British firm may be about to happen. McDermott Will & Emery, the 14th-biggest in the US, is said to be in "hot and heavy" negotiations with a UK firm.

A source in the American firm says the UK firm has an office in Hong Kong, but not Singapore. British firms that fit the category include Richards Butler, Wilde Sapte, Lovell White Durrant, Simmons & Simmons, Bird & Bird and Gouldens.

Or is the about-to-merge Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co seeking an American partner to fill the hole left when Denton Hall dropped out of merger negotiations?

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A GUIDE TO LEGAL FICTIONS



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Progressive medium-sized City firm requires ambitious tax lawyer with 1-3 years' ppe to join its team; excellent work and career opportunity.

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Outstanding property firm in London has vacancies at the 0-5 year level. Substantial growth means quality of work and prospects are exceptional.

Ref 25122 - Philip Boynton

Company/Commercial

Small/medium-sized boutique corporate practice in central London, with blue-chip client-base, seeks assistants admitted 0-4 years.

Ref 35065 - Philip Boynton

Banking

Major City firm seeks lawyer with 5-8 years' ppe in banking, securitisations, capital markets and structured finance; superb work and prospects.

Ref 20915 - Philip Boynton

Property Litigation

Top City practice requires property litigator with 1-3 years' ppe to service clients ranging from investors and developers to retail groups.

Ref 36546 - Gill Newman



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Citco is looking to employ a company/commercial lawyer to be based in Amsterdam and to provide legal support for its European International fund services group. The ideal candidate should be a qualified lawyer (either a solicitor or barrister) with up to three years' general company/commercial law ppe gained in private practice, at the bar or in the mutual fund industry. Fluency in French or in another European language would be an advantage.

CAYMAN ISLANDS & BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Citco is also looking to employ two Trust Officers, one for the Cayman Islands and the other for the British Virgin Islands. Candidates for both positions should be qualified lawyers (either solicitors or barristers) with up to three years' ppe. Relevant experience in one or more of the following disciplines gained in private practice, at the bar or in the industry will be required:

- private client/trustee
- private banking
- mutual funds (with emphasis on the offshore fund industry)
- general company/commercial law.

Each candidate should also be fluent in Spanish and/or Portuguese.

The positions offer excellent salaries and benefits with non-contributory pension scheme, medical insurance, relocation expenses and excellent prospects for the right candidates for a further career within the Citco Group.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington or Seamus Hoar (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall In-House Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.

CHAMBERS

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September Qualifiers

Vacancies for September qualifiers are ending earlier this year. Already, we have filled several such vacancies, especially in the areas of and finance. This is affecting the timeliness which law firms adopt for assessing their trainees and offering post-qualification positions. Full of losing their last trainees has prompted several firms to bring their schedules forward. It is the larger firms which are quickest off the mark. They will be advertising in practice areas such as corporate, commercial property, tax, pensions and employee benefits and banking and finance. Several leading medium-sized firms have also started recruiting in these areas. US firms, too, will look at September qualifiers for positions in banking, project finance, capital markets and corporate. They will pay US level salaries.

Positions in general commercial law, commercial litigation, and private client, and to come onto the market later - in the mid-to-late summer. The same applies to positions with smaller firms in the City, and with firms in Holborn and the West End.

Outside London, the larger firms are also showing early interest in trainees. Areas include personal injury, insolvency, private client, corporate finance, banking, commercial litigation, commercial property, construction and pensions. The smaller and medium-sized firms, too, will not doubt be offering jobs to trainees earlier than usual, but they are always behind the larger firms and are unlikely to interview candidates before June/July.

Michael Chambers
CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Biblos (01403-710 971)

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis

Hi-tech: South East

Solo/barr main 3 years' ppe to join hi-tech/telecommunications for broad range of int'l contractual and IP work. Position reports to commercial affairs department so normal business as usual essential.

Leasing: London

Major int'l finance co seeks lawyer min 5-6 years' ppe. Exposed to equipment leasing essential. Position will involve some travel so languages would be useful.

Oil: South East

International petroleum company, with mainly North Sea operations, needs solo/barr 1-2 years' ppe including oil and gas. Opportunity for real responsibility as company expands.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SOUTH: Helen Mills, Aileen Shepherd, Noel Murray

LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson NORTH: Sukh Bahra, Paul Thomas

Master Mariner: City

Leading shipping firm seeks experienced mariner with at least a year's shipping litigation experience to join their highly respected Admiralty department.

Commercial Property: City

Leading practice seeks 2-4 year qualified solicitor for, among others, high profile, expanding and glamorous retail client. Full range of work.

Insurance Litigation: City

3-5 year qualified insurance litigation assistant sought by large City insurance firm to handle all aspects of contentious insurance from international treaties to PI.

Corporate/Corporate Finance: City

Leading medium-sized firm seeks newly-qualified solicitor for broad mix of M & A and corporate finance for both private and public companies.

Litigation Partner Designate: WC1

Friendly, stable Holborn firm with loyal commercial client base seeks outgoing commercial litigator with a part following and a distill of working all hours.

IP/IT: City

Solo/barr main 3 years' ppe req'd by international company. Work will include contracts, IP, JV's & employment. Opportunity for broader commercial role and involvement in all aspects of the company's business.

Professional Services: London

Well established company needs junior lawyer interested in co ec work. You should have good drafting skills, be flexible and enjoy working under pressure.

Litigation Manager: North West

Specialist insurance company needs litigation solicitor to head claims negotiation team. Role will also involve producing reports and ensuring that financial targets are met.

Senior Energy: City

Owing to partner-level secondment, pre-eminent energy practice seeks senior solicitor for broad range of oil and gas work of highest quality.

IP Litigation: West End

Well known West End firm seeks 3-6 year qualified IP litigation solicitor, preferably with some patent litigation experience, to join their growing IP team.

Commercial Lit: M4 Corridor

Renowned commercial practice seeks litigator 1-3 years' ppe for City quality work in busy department. Good academics/general grounding essential.

Commercial Property: Leeds

1-5 year qualified solicitor required by leading firm to undertake development work. Excellent scope for career progression with fast growing department.

Legal Researcher

Chambers' legal directory needs qualified lawyer to join team researching the legal profession. Ring Reena SenGupta: 0171-606 1300.

CITY ASSISTANTS

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

Do you know which way to vote? With your feet, we suggest, in the direction of the professional indemnity job of election year. Outstanding prospects and great fun awaits the 1-2 years' ppe solicitor keen to specialise at the cutting edge of professional indemnity work. Construction lawyers experience ideal but commitment and enthusiasm the priority! This deserves your vote!

COMM PROPERTY

So you thought that property lawyers never met the stars? They do at this high profile partnership where even the property department deals with a celebrity client base. One of the friendliest and most successful practices in London offers a 2 years' ppe solicitor with initiative and a sense of humour the chance to become part of its excellent team.

CO / COM (French Speaker) PQE

A French speaking company commercial assistant solicitor/junior partner (2-8 years' PQE) is sought by our client, a highly regarded niche City firm. Its clients include, in addition to a broad range of UK based plc and private companies, high profile French governmental and corporate concerns active over here. An unusual and interesting mixed colour caseload across for both British and French clients awaits a top flight assistant seeking an early partnership opportunity.

DEFAMATION

Have you got the stamina to rescue a glittering array of celebrity clients from unwelcome publicity? The defamation job in London at a market leading practice awaits the solicitor (0-2 years' ppe) with the commitment and expertise to work on a stream of high profile cases.

To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Sarah King or Penny Terndrup on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 0171 404 2039) or write to us, in complete confidence, at 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JR (fax: 0171 404 8817).

EAGAN JANION

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

US FIRMS

Our client, a New York heavyweight, has already established a solid UK presence. Assistants and partners with corporate, finance or project specialisms are now sought. US and UK experience in all key areas is the medium-term aim as the firm receives top quality instructions from a variety of US and UK institutions and corporates. The firm prides itself on its collegial, team based environment. (Ref:7003)

US INVESTMENT BANK

Unique opportunity for lawyer with corporate finance/banking/capital markets background and between 3 and 10 years' post-qualification experience. Role is first-time UK appointment as general in-house counsel to the global custody division. Knowledge of custody work is not essential. A proactive, self-starting approach and high level of commitment are crucial. The role will involve handling a high profile international operational listing closely with New York. (Ref:9650)

PROPERTY

Top 5 City firm with excellent commercial property practice (including development, finance, portfolio acquisition and retail work) is now keen to recruit additional lawyers. A minimum of 2 years' experience is preferred and genuine gaps exist for senior candidates at the "partner designate" level. The firm has a genuine interest in exposing its lawyers to a full range of work and supervision is within close-knit teams. (Ref:8169)

IN-HOUSE CITY

This is a role within a dynamic London based communication company, one of the leading organisations serving the international insurance sector. They have successfully cornered a niche in the IT sector, with huge potential further growth. It now seeks to appoint a lawyer with 3-5 years' experience of commercial contracts, IT/IT, telecoms and employment law. With significant involvement in high profile negotiations the lawyer will be integrally involved in the strategy of the company. (Ref:9683)

SEPTIMBER 1997 QUALIFIERS

Already a number of firms (within the "magic circle" and beyond) have identified requirements for "top" September 1997 qualifiers in a number of areas, including tax, finance, corporate, litigation, property and private client. Strong academics and partnership culture are important. Excellent opportunity for candidates to make a "West End firm to upgrade". (Ref:9726)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact Yasmin Phillips or Andy Golding (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends). If you are interested in in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5348 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail: yasmin@zmb.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION

Construction remains an area of great demand. Candidates with either construction or non-construction experience are required by a number of City firms both for London and Hong Kong. Of prime importance is relevant experience gained in a recognised construction practice and a fair for client development. (Ref:8145)

CORPORATE

Contrary to what you may believe, corporate departments offer widely in London. Our client is a top tier firm with an enviable reputation for offering assistants a "generalist" approach and top quality mix of work. Direct client contact is actively encouraged and there is a strong "team" atmosphere across the department. Ideal opportunity for lawyers (with between 2 and 7 years' experience) who thrive in a down to earth, yet high calibre environment and have robust, outgoing personalities. (Ref:9721)

LITIGATION

Top-flight US law firm with heavy-hitting litigation reputation is looking to recruit "internationally focused" lawyers with between 3 and 8 years' experience for London office. Work includes high grade commercial litigation, fraud and banking. A City background, top-flight academics and "hands-on" litigation experience are essential. A flexible proactive approach will be taken as read. (Ref:9695)

GENERAL COUNSEL WARWICKS

Our client is a financial services group based in Stratford-upon-Avon. A strategic decision has been taken to appoint their first General Counsel, who will also be company secretary designate. This will be a generalist role and responsibilities will include advising on commercial contracts, employment law, mergers and acquisitions and provisions of the FSA. A unique opportunity to relocate to this attractive area to a highly successful business. (Ref:9701)

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► **Snr Employment** North London
This small dynamic practice is now looking for a proactive senior employment lawyer, to build and develop an employment practice. This is an excellent opportunity for a confident employment lawyer to make their mark. Ref: 8363F

► **Corporate Tax** City
A 1 to 3 year qualified tax specialist with experience gained from a major City or Provincial firm is sought by this well known City firm. The work is diverse and the experience will be excellent. Ref: 1544F

► **Sept. 1997 Qualifiers** All Fields
Our client, a major national practice, offers exceptional career development, training and remuneration to newly qualified solicitors. There are openings in the London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and Leeds offices for newly qualified solicitors wishing to specialise in the following areas: Company commercial, commercial litigation, property/construction and defendant personal injury. We also have over 150 other vacancies for newly qualified lawyers in London and throughout Britain. Please call us for a confidential discussion about your career opportunities upon qualification. Ref: 1049AF

► **Intellectual Property** Switzerland
This world leading international sports marketing services company urgently requires a lawyer with between 2 and 6 years IP and particularly trade mark experience. Applicants can be qualified in any common law jurisdiction. Ref: 495NT

► **Employment Counsel** Germany
This well known US multinational requires a European qualified lawyer with between 4 and 7 years employment law experience. You will speak at least one other language and have a familiarity with one of several continental countries' legal systems. Ref: 2956NT

► **Telecoms - Head of Dept** South East
This rapidly expanding telecommunications company is seeking a senior lawyer, 7-15 years qualified, to head a small department. Regulatory experience is essential. Ref: 2967RN

► **Construction/Engineering** London
This construction company seeks a lawyer to be solely responsible for all its legal matters. You will have at least 8 years experience of contracting, gained ideally from an engineering or construction background. Ref: 1203RN

► **Patents** Surrey
This major international services company seeks an experienced lawyer, qualified in any jurisdiction, with patent prosecution experience and excellent technical skills to be based in its headquarters. Ref: 547RN

► **M&A (2 Roles)** London
We currently have 2 instructions from well known international organisations who require solicitors with between 3 and 8 years corporate experience gained from top City firms. Ref: 2960RN

► **Information Technology** London
This market leading European IT services company requires a 1 to 5 year qualified IT specialist to join a small UK head office legal team. Ref: 2908NT

► **Investment Management** London
This leading international group seeks a 3 to 7 year qualified lawyer with investment management experience to assume a European role. Ref: 1911NT

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Bogus 'official' party candidates should not be entitled to deceive the voters, says David Engel

An end to this literal democracy

The joke candidate has a long and not entirely dishonourable tradition in British politics. Similarly, there is a well-trodden path followed by politicians who fall out with their local constituency association. They usually stand as, say, an "Independent Conservative" or "Independent Labour".

This general election has, however, thrown up a different species, potentially far more damaging to the democratic process. Nominations closed on April 16. In several constituencies, candidates lodged nomination papers describing themselves in terms which, to a greater or lesser extent, misrepresented that they were the official candidate adopted and approved by one of the main political parties.

The impetus for this trend appears to have been the High Court decision in the *Literal Democrat* case in 1994. A Richard Huggett who stood in the last European Parliament elections described himself as the "Literal Democrat" candidate. Because names on a ballot paper are always in alphabetical order, Mr Huggett's name appeared before that of the official Liberal Democrat candidate. In the event Mr Huggett polled more than 10,000 votes. The genuine Liberal Democrat candidate was beaten by the Conservative candidate by less than 800 votes.

After the election, the High Court decided that the fact that some voters might be confused by a candidate's chosen words of description did not amount to a breach of the Parliamentary Election Rules in the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Mr Justice Dyson held that it was clear "the rules did not prohibit candidates, whether out of spite or a wicked sense of fun, from describing themselves in a confusing way or indulging in spurious tactics."

The decision appears to have given the green light to a number of candidates to exploit the present state of the law. On April 16 Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, sought an injunction to prevent a candidate standing against him as "Sir Nicholas Walter Lyell". This candidate

also described himself as "The Conservative Party Candidate", as did the genuine Sir Nicholas Lyell.

The Attorney-General was successful. The court accepted that to adopt the same name as well as the same description as the official Conservative Party candidate was a "fraudulent device or contrivance" likely to "impede or prevent the free exercise of the franchise" contrary to Section 115(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act. This is the first time that a private law injunction has been granted to one candidate against another under Section 115(2).

The Attorney-General's success prompted further applications to the High Court the next day. The charge was led by Robert Guy, the official Conservative candidate for

about Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith's son who was standing in Hammersmith & Fulham under the slightly unexpected banner of "New Labour".

What emerged from this rash of applications was that the court would be reluctant to order any candidate to change the description used. Mr Huggett was ordered to drop the use of the word "official" in Brighton, but where the applicant was unable to show clear evidence of deception, the court was unwilling to intervene. Equally, it would not intervene when the applicant was too late because the statement of persons nominated and on the ballot papers had been printed. The Labour Party was unsuccessful for that reason in Hammersmith & Fulham.

A number of applicants were also hit in the pocket. Even where they were partially successful, they were ordered to pay the legal costs of Defendant Returning Officers (where the Returning Officer asked for them). But the main significance of last week's proceedings is that the court decided it did have jurisdiction to grant an injunction against a bogus "official" candidate where it was convinced that the candidate in question was using a "fraudulent device or contrivance" likely to deceive voters.

That is a novel development which in theory makes it easier for such candidates to be challenged, provided this is done before nominations are published and ballot papers printed.

The courts, however, lay down a strict timetable for delivery of papers, making it difficult in practice for a party candidate to know that he or she faces a bogus candidate in time to launch legal proceedings before logistics make it impossible for the court to intervene.

An unsuccessful candidate can complain, in an election petition, to the court after the election. This may cure but cannot prevent electoral wrongdoing. The other difficulty is that an election petition can be brought only against the successful candidate, who is unlikely to be the fraudulent candidate, even if the latter has attracted



Joke: Lisa Lovebucket, standing for Hackney North & Stoke Newington

enough votes to have a material effect on the election outcome. Despite recent events, the law still appears to allow candidates to describe themselves on their nomination and ballot papers in such a way as to deceive voters into voting for them in the mistaken belief they are official party candidates.

But the problem with the current rules is that they are aimed — rightly — at protecting the impartiality of the Returning Officer, who is responsible for accepting or rejecting nomination papers. He or she has little discretion to reject nomination papers, so long as the candidate is correctly identified by name and address. Clearly, the officer should not be put in a position where he or she might effectively be

making a party political decision. But there should be stricter rules as to when a candidate may represent himself as the candidate approved and adopted by the political party in question. The logistical timetable could also be amended to give time for an application to the court before nominations are published.

At present, courts are still largely tied by the state of the law. Mischievous candidates, or those whose aim is to deceive voters, can cause serious confusion sufficient to cause a miscarriage of democracy. This should be sorted out before the next election.

● The author is a solicitor in the media litigation group at the City law firm, Theodore Goddard.

Clamp down on highwaymen

Leonard Jason-Lloyd looks at the laws covering people whose vehicles have been wheel-clamped

The Granada Television programme *World in Action* recently highlighted concerns regarding the exploits of private wheel-clampers and portrayed some of them as modern-day highwaymen.

It is often asserted that under English law little, if anything, can be done by a person in charge of a vehicle immobilised in this way. This immediately leads to calls for yet another law to be passed to remedy the plight of people caught in this predicament.

But does the remedy already exist? I believe that it does, especially in some of the circumstances disclosed by the *World in Action* team. First, there is the offence of blackmail under Section 21 of the Theft Act 1968 which, in this context, involves an unwarranted demand for money with menaces. Clearly, there is a demand for money accompanied by the threat that the vehicle will remain clamped unless that sum is paid and that a greater amount will accrue if the vehicle is towed away. The only problem appears to be whether the courts would regard the threat as being justifiable.

In my view, when a private contractor wheel-clamps a vehicle that has been parked for only a few minutes and demands an exorbitant fee, it could be construed as being an unwarranted demand. This seems to be especially so in situations in which "no parking" or other warning signs are either non-existent or inadequate.

An alternative could be a prosecution under S.40 of the Administration of Justice Act 1970 which is the offence of unlawful harassment of debtors. Under S.40 it will be an offence where a debt is due, but the person claiming it under a contract harasses the debtor by using methods calculated to cause

him or her alarm, distress or humiliation. It may also be committed by falsely claiming that criminal proceedings can be taken for non-payment or if the defendant falsely represents that he or she is authorised to enforce payment in some official capacity or presents a document which gives the false impression that it is of an official nature.

The maximum sentence on conviction for blackmail is 14 years' imprisonment. It is also an

arrestable offence which means broadly that the police may arrest a person caught committing blackmail in this fashion or a person who has committed or is about to commit this offence. It also means that with the exception of the latter power and some further restrictions, ordinary citizens may arrest for this offence, although such action could be precarious and might better be left for the police to deal with. In contrast, unlawful harassment of debtors is triable summarily only and punishable by a maximum Level 5 fine (at present £5,000).

Also, it is not an arrestable offence so any action taken by the police will have to be by way of a summons unless they have grounds to arrest under S.25 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (general arrest conditions such as failure to provide satisfactory particulars).

What would be the reaction of extortionate wheel-clampers if motorists affected by their exploits sought the help of the police, who in turn had to take action either under the law on blackmail or unlawful harassment of debtors?

Perhaps this may be the only way to have this proposition tested before the courts.

● The author is lecturer in law at the University of Derby.



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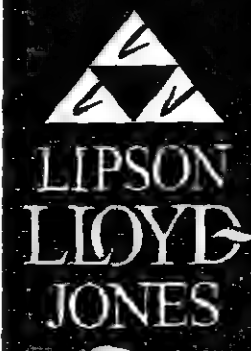
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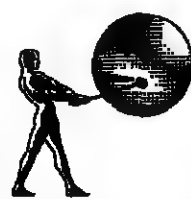
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The bodies presently participating in the Scheme are the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. The operation of the Scheme and the profession's regulatory and disciplinary machinery as a whole are currently under review. A revised Scheme may be introduced during 1998 and other accountancy bodies may participate in it. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will occupy the equivalent role in any such revised Scheme.

The Executive Counsel reports to the Scheme's Executive Committee and is responsible for managing and directing the investigative process. The key tasks include:

- appointing investigating accountants, directing and reviewing their work;
- liaising with other persons or bodies having relevant information or engaged in

related investigations;

- initiating disciplinary proceedings against individual accountants, firms or publicly exonerating them;
- presenting cases before a Joint Disciplinary Tribunal or instructing Counsel to do so;
- the general administration and budgetary management of the Scheme.

The present Executive Counsel retires this year and suitably qualified candidates are sought to fill the post. The person appointed is likely to be aged between 45 and 55 and must be an experienced barrister or solicitor, having risen to a professional level which would command respect and authority. The appointment will be for a term of up to five years. Candidates should have experience of conducting investigations in a commercial or financial background. The person appointed is likely to have had considerable experience of substantial civil or criminal litigation. First-class communication and leadership skills are essential qualities.

Please send a full CV in confidence to GKRS at the address below, quoting reference number 6971 on both letter and envelope, before 21st May 1997, and including details of current remuneration.



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Additional election candidates

Following are amendments to the list of nominations carried in The Times on April 17.

A

ABERAVON
Beany, Capt (Beanus)
ALDERSHOT
Stevens, D (BNP)
Pendragon, A (Ind)
ALTRINCHAM & SALE WEST
Stephens, J (PL)
Ramsbottom, D (LD)
AMBER VALLEY
Delete Delivers, N (Loony)
ANTRIM EAST
Dick, T (C)
McAuley, Ms C (SF)
O'Connor, D (SDLP)
Mason, R (Ind)
McCann, Ms M (NLP)
Donaldson, W (PLP)
ANTRIM NORTH
McCarthy, J (SF)
Hinds, Ms B (N Women)
ANTRIM SOUTH
Cushin, H (SF)
Smyth, H (PLP)
ASHFIELD
Belshaw, R (BNP)
ASHFORD
Boden, R (Grn)
ASHFORD-UNDER-LYNE
Prince Cymal (Loony)
AYLESBURY
K Sheaf (Ref)
Delete Cooke, C (UK Ind)
Delete Thomson, R (Loony)

B

BARKING
Tolman, M (BNP)
BARNLEY EAST & WEST
Hyland, Ms J (SEF)
Capstick, K (Soc Lab)
BARROW AND FURNESS
Hazelton, J (PLP)
BASINGSTOKE
Selim, Dr E (Ind)
BATLEY & SPEN
Smith, R (BNP)
BATTERSEA
Marshall, J (Dream)
BEACONSFIELD
Matthews, R (B Ind)
Cooke, C (UK Ind)
Stony, C (CASC)
BECKENHAM
McAuley, J (NF)
BEDFORDSHIRE NORTH
Foley, F L (Ind C)
BELFAST EAST
Doughan, D (NIFT)
Bell, J (WP)
Dines, Ms S (C)
BELFAST NORTH
Treanor, P (WP)
BELFAST SOUTH
Boal, Ms M (C)
McDonnell, Dr A (SDLP)
Lynn, P (WP)
Cusack, N (Ind Lab)
Campbell, Ms A (N Women)
Irvine, D (PUP)
BELFAST WEST
Daly, Ms M (NLP)
Kennedy, L (HR)
Lowry, J (WP)
BETHNAL GREEN AND BOW
King, D (BNP)
Shelton, O (R Lab)
Hamid, A (Soc Lab)
BEVERLEY & HOLDERNES
Barley, D (UK Ind)
Delete: Green, C (NLP)
BEXLEYHEATH & CRAYFORD
Smith, Ms P (BNP)
BILLERICAY
Hughes, B (LC)
BIRKENHEAD
Cullen, M (Soc Lab)
BIRMINGHAM EDGBASTON
Campbell, D (BDP)
BIRMINGHAM ERDINGTON
Delete: Baines, M (PL)
BIRMINGHAM LADYWOOD
Carmichael, A (Nat Dem)
BIRMINGHAM NORTHFIELD
Axon, K (BNP)
BIRMINGHAM PERRY BARR
Windridge, L (BNP)
Panesar, A (Ain)
BIRMINGHAM SELLY OAK
Sherriff-Knowles, P (Loony)
BIRMINGHAM SPARKBROOK & SMALL HEATH
Clawley, A (Grn)
Patel, P (4th)
Bl, Ms S (Ind)
Syed, R M (PAYR)
Wren, C (Soc Lab)
Delete: Meads, L (NLP)
BLISY
Peacock, J (BNP)
Stokes, T (Ind)
Delete: Harrison, R (Ref)
BLACKBURN
Kahn, W (CSPS)
Carmichael-Grimshaw, Mrs M (KBF)
Wingfield, Ms T (Nat Dem)
Drummond, Mrs H (Soc Lab)
BLACKPOOL NORTH & FLEETWOOD
Ellis, J (BNP)
BLACKPOOL SOUTH
Delete: Cato, M (Loony)
BLAYDON
Rook, R (Ind Lab)
BOLTON NORTH EAST
Kelly, W (Soc Lab)
Delete: Tong, P (NLP)
BOLTON WEST
Kelly, Mrs D (Soc Lab)
Delete: Jump, H (NLP)
BOULTON
Glover, P (Soc)

C

BOURNEMOUTH EAST
Delete: Barratt, T (NLP)
BOURNEMOUTH WEST
Morse, J (BNP)
Delete: Springham, A (NLP)
BRACKNELL
Tomkins, J (N Lab)
BRADFORD WEST
Osborne, G (BNP)
Shah, S (Soc)
Khan, A (Soc Lab)
BRAINTREE
Abbott, J (Green Ref)
Nolan, M (New Way)
BRENT EAST
Warrillo, Ms C (Dream)
Jenkins, D (NLP)
Keable, S (Soc Lab)
BRENT NORTH
Clark, G (Dream)
BRENT SOUTH
Mahalidar, Ms A (NLP)
Howard, C (Dream)
Delete: Ahmed, M (NLP)
BRIGHTON KEMPTOWN
Williams, Ms F (Soc Lab)
Darlow, R (Dream)
BRIGHTON PAVILION
Card, A (Dream)
Huggan, R (Ind C)
Dobbs, B (SG)
Delete: Draycott, C (NLP)

BRISTOL EAST

Williams, P (Soc Lab)
BRISTOL NORTH WEST
Horion, C (Ind Lab)
Shorner, G (Soc Lab)
BRISTOL SOUTH
Taylor, L (Glow)
Marshall, J (Soc)
BRISTOL WEST
Nurse, R (Soc Lab)
Slater, B (Ref)
BROMLEY & CHISLEHURST
Speed, Ms F (Grn)
Sonenman, M (NF)
BROXBORNE
Chetchnam, S (3rd)
Bruce, D (BNP)
BURNLEY
Delete: Oakley, R (Ref)
BURYTON
Sharp, K (Nat Dem)
BURY ST EDMUNDS
Ereft-Guymer, M (Lab)

C

CALDER VALLEY
Jackson, C (BNP)
CAMBERWELL & PECKHAM
Barter, Ms J (Soc)
Ruddock, Ms A (Soc Lab)
Eames, C (WRP)
Delete: Ansong, P F (NLP)
CAMBRIDGE
Aihow, R (WRP)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE NORTH
Bennett, S (Soc Lab)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE NORTH WEST
Wyatt, B (UK Ind)
CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH
Lamb, C (Fair)
Delete: Coghill, C (Loony)
CANNOCK CHASE
Hurley, W (N Lab)
Conroy, M (Soc Lab)
CARDIFF CENTRAL
Burns, T (Soc Lab)
CARDIFF SOUTH & PENARTH
Foreman, J (N Lab)
Shepherd, M (Soc)
CARLISLE
Mayrho, C (LD)
CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON
Riche, G (BNP)
Cook, G (UK Ind)
CASTLE POINT
Kendall, Mrs L D (Ind)
CHARWOOD
Palmer, M (BNP)
CHATHAM & AYLESFORD
Harding, A (UK Ind)
CHEADLE
Delete: Harris, A (PL)
CHELSEA
Hanks, K (Loony)
Brighouse, Ms S (NLP)
Harris, Ms A (PL)
CHESTER, CITY OF
Gerrard, J (WCC)
CHESTERFIELD
Scarth, N (Ind OAP)
CHICHESTER
Smith, C (Lab)
CHINGFORD AND WOODFORD GREEN
Gould, A (BNP)
CHIPPING BARNET
Dirksen, M D (NLP)
CITIES OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER
Wharton, Ms P (Burs)
Sadovitz, J (Dream)
Webster, G (Hemp)
Walsh, N (Loony)
CLYDESDALE
Smith, K (BNP)
Delete: Barnett, G (NLP)
COATBRIDGE AND CHRYSTON
Delete: Henderson, M (NLP)
COLCHESTER
Basker, Ms L (NLP)
COLNE VALLEY
Brooke, A (Soc Lab)
CONWY
Bradley, R (Ait LD)
CORRY
Bence, Ms J (NLP)
CORNWALL NORTH
Bolitho, J (Meb Ker)
Cresswell, N (NLP)
CORNWALL SOUTH EAST
Harley, Ms M (NLP)
Dunbar, P (Meb Ker)
COVENTRY NORTH EAST
Klawell, C (Dream)
Khamis, H (Soc Lab)
COVENTRY NORTH WEST
Francis, L (Dream)
Spencer, D (Soc Lab)
COVENTRY SOUTH
Nellis, D (Soc)
Lewins, J (BNP)
Bradshaw, Ms A-M (Dream)
CRAWLEY
Kahn, A (JP)
Delete: Bradshaw, R (NLP)
CROYDON CENTRAL
Woolcott, J (UK Ind)
CROYDON SOUTH
Perguson, P (BNP)
Samuel, M (Choice)
CUMBERNAULT & KILSYTH
McEwan, K (SSA)
Delete: Mair, P (NLP)
CUNNINGHAM NORTH
McAid, Ms L (Soc Lab)
CUNNINGHAM SOUTH
Edwin, K (Soc Lab)
Martlew, A (Ref)

D

DAGENHAM
Binding, W (BNP)
Dawson, R (Ind)
Hipperson, M (Nat Dem)
DARTFORD
McHale, P (BNP)
Pollitt, J (Ch D)
Homden, P (FDP)
DAVENTRY
Gordon, J (LD)
DERBY SOUTH
Delete: Bereny, A (Loony)
Delete: Waters, J (Pro Life)
Delete: Crompton, J (UK Ind)
DERBYSHIRE SOUTH
Crompton, Dr E (UK Ind)
DERBYSHIRE WEST
Kyslum, M (Ind BB)
Meynell, G (Ind Green)
Delves, N (Loony)
DEVON EAST
Needs, G (Nat Dem)
DEVON NORTH
Delete: Langmead, T (Loony)
DEWSBURY
Taylor, Ms F (BNP)
Daniel, D (Ind Lab)
DON VALLEY
Johnson, C (PL)
Ball, N (Soc Lab)
DONCASTER CENTRAL
Kenny, M (Soc Lab)
DONCASTER NORTH
Swan, M (AS Lab)
DORSET WEST
Bygraves, R (Lab)
DOWNS NORTH
Morris, J (N Women)
Mooney, R (NLP)
DOWNS SOUTH
McKeon, R (NLP)
Delete: O'Leary, D (NLP)
DUDLEY NORTH
Cartwright, G (NF)
Darby, S (Nat Dem)
Altherton, M (Soc Lab)
DULWICH & WEST NORWOOD
Rizz, Captain (Rizz)
DUMFRIES
Robertson, L (SSA)
Delete: McKillop, J (NLP)
DUNDEE EAST
Duke, H (SSA)
DUNDEE WEST
Ward, Ms M (SSA)
Delete: Kennedy, H (NLP)

E

EALING ACTON & SHEPHERD'S BUSH
Edwards, W (Ch P)
Beasley, C (Glow)
Danon, P (PL)
Gilbert, J (Soc Lab)
EALING SOUTHALL
Brar, H (Soc Lab)
EASTINGTON
Colborn, S (SPGB)
EAST HAM
Smith, C (BNP)
Hardy, G (Nat Dem)
Khan, I (Soc Lab)
EAST LUTHER
Delete: Calligaro, R (NLP)
EASTBOURNE
Delete: Grenville, M (NLP)
EASTWOOD
Delete: Sutcliffe, R (NLP)
EDINBURGH CENTRAL
Benson, M (Ind Dem)
Delete: Reid, D (NLP)
EDINBURGH EAST & MUSSELBURGH
Delete: Irvine, M (NLP)
Delete: Coyne, M (Grn)
EDINBURGH NORTH & LEITH
Douglas-Reid, P (NLP)
Brown, G (SSA)
Delete: Mallin, P (NLP)
EDINBURGH PENTLANDS
Dunn, B (NLP)
EDINBURGH SOUTH
Dunn, B (NLP)
Delete: Pringle, T (NLP)
EDINBURGH WEST
Jack, A (AS)
EDMONTON
Cord, B (BNP)
ENFIELD NORTH
Griffin, Ms J (BNP)
ENFIELD SOUTHGATE
Storkey, A (Ch P)
Malakous, A (Mab)
Delete: Swain, B (UK Ind)
EPFING FORD
Henderson, P (BNP)
EREWASH
Simmons, M (Soc Lab)
ESHER & WALTON
Kay, Ms S (Dream)
EXETER
Meakin, J (UKPP)

F

FALMOUTH & CAMBORNE
Geach, J (Ind Lab)
Astbury, J (BNP)
Bradshaw, Ms A-M (Dream)
FAREHAM
O'Brien, W (Ind No)
Delete: Chapman, M (UK Ind)
FAVERSHAM & KENT MID
Morgan, Ms C (IGRLNSP)
FELTHAM & HESTON
Delete: Sagar, S (UK Ind)
FIFE CENTRAL
Rees-Mogg, J (C)
Delete: Murray, S (C)
FOLKESTONE & HYTHE
Segal, E (Soc)
FOREST OF DEAN
Palmer, C (21st Cent)
Morgan, G (Ind Dem)
Ponter, S (Ind F)

G

GALLOWAY & UPPER NITHSDALE
Wood, R (Ind)
Delete: Kerr, P
GILLINGHAM
Jury, C (BNP)
GLASGOW ANNIESLAND
Pringle, T (NLP)
Bonnar, W (SSA)
Delete: Dunachie, E (NLP)
GLASGOW BAILLIESTON
McVicar, J (SSA)
Delete: Dunachie, E (NLP)
GLASGOW CATHART
Stewart, E (SSA)
Delete: Hastie, M (NLP)
GLASGOW GOVAN
White, J (BNP)
Abbas, Z J (SCU)
Badar, I (SLI)
Paton, P (SLU)
McCormack, A (SSA)
GLASGOW KELVIN
Green, A (SSA)
Vann, V (SPGB)
GLASGOW MARVILL
Baker, Ms M (SSA)
Johnstone, S (SEP)
GLASGOW POLLOK
Sheridan, T (SSA)
Delete: Hall, A (NLP)
GLASGOW RUTHERGLEN
Kane, Ms R (UK Ind)
Delete: Kennedy, G (NLP)
GLASGOW SHETTLSTON
Currie, R (BNP)
McVicar, C (SSA)
Graham, J (WRP)
Delete: Gilmore, D (NLP)
GLASGOW SPRINGBURN
Lawson, J (SSA)
GOSPORT
Ellie, P (Ind)
GOWER
Popham, A (FP)
Delete: Thomas, R (Loony)
GRAVESEND
Leyshon, A (NLP)
GREENWICH & WOOLWICH
Martin-Eagle, D (Consti)
Mallone, R (Fellowship)
GUILDFORD
Morris, J (Facilit)

H

HACKNEY NORTH & STOKE NEWINGTON
Tolson, D (None)
Lovebuck, L (Rain Ref)
Delete: Goldberg, M (NLP)
HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH
Cullow, C (BNP)
Goldman, M (Comm Bri)
Bets, T (N Lab)
Goldberg, M (NLP)
Rogers, B (WRP)
HALESOWEN & ROWLEY REGIS
Meads, Ms K (Nat Dem)
HALTON
Alley, J (Rep GB)
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
Ellison, A (CAB)
Johnson-Smith, N (Lab)
HAMPSTEAD EAST
Foster, I (Grn)
HAMPSTEAD NORTH EAST
Berry, C (UK Ind)
HAMPSTEAD NORTH WEST
Anson, H (Bypass)
Dodd, B (Ind)
HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE
Carroll, R (Dream)
Harris, J (Hum)
HARLOW
Bowles, J (BNP)
HARROGATE & KNARESBOROUGH
Blackburn, J (LC)
HARWICH
Knight, R (CRP)
Hastings & Rye
Delete: Moor, I (NLP)
HAVANT
Awral, Major (BIFP)
HAYES & HARLINGTON
Parrow, D (ANP)
Hutchings, J (Ind)
HAZE GROVE
Girdin-Flood, D (Ind Hum)
HENDON
Taylor, Ms S (WRP)
HENLEY
Hilbert, T (Whig)
HERTFORD & STORTFORD
Speller, S (Lab)
Delete: Harbottle, D (Lab)
HERTFORDSHIRE SOUTH WEST
Delete: Fitzsimons, B (UK Ind)
HITCHIN & HARPENDEN
Horizon, J (Soc)
HOLBOURN & ST PANCRAS
Rosenthal, M (Dream)
Rice-Evans, P (EUP)
Smith, S (JP)
Bedding, T (NLP)
Quintavalle, B (PL)
Conway, W (WRP)
HORNCHURCH
Trueman, Miss J (Third)
HORNSEY & WOOD GREEN
Silkorski, P (Soc Lab)
HORSHAM
Corbould, M (FEP)
HOVE
Furness, J (Ind C)
HUNTINGDON
Hufford, Ms V (Ch D)
Robertson, P (Ind)
Delete: Sutcliffe, D (Loony)
HYNDEN
Brown, J (IAC)
ILFORD NORTH
Wilson, P (BNP)

I

ILFORD SOUTH
Owens, A (BNP)
Hodges, D (Ref)
Ramsey, B (Soc Lab)
INVERNESS EAST, NAIRN & LOCHABER
Hart, D (Ch U)
ISLE OF WIGHT
Rees, H (Ind Isl)
Daly, C (NLP)
Eveleigh, J (Rain Isl)
ISLINGTON SOUTH & FINSBURY
Laws, A (ACA)
Basarik, E (Ind)
Creese, M (NLP)
Delete: Quintavalle, B (PL)
JARROW
LeBlond, A (Ind Lab)
Blissett, J (SPGB)
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA
Oliver, G (UKPP)
Hajima, Ms S (NLP)
Sullivan, P (Dream)
Parliament, P (Hear)
Bear, E (Teddy Bear)
Delete: MacLaughlin, C (Loony)
KETERING
Le Carpenter, Mrs R (NLP)
KINGSTON & SURBITON
Port, C (Dream)
Burns, P (UK Ind)
Leighton, M (NLP)
KINGSWOOD
Hart, P (BNP)
Nicolson, A (Scrapit)
KNOWLES NORTH & SEFTON EAST
Jones, C (Soc Lab)
LAGAN VALLEY
McCarthy, F (WP)
LANCASHIRE WEST
Carter, M (Ref)
Hill, D (Home Rule)
LEEDS CENTRAL
Hill, C (Soc)
Rix, D (Soc Lab)
Martin-Eagle, D (Consti)
Mallone, R (Fellowship)
LEEDS EAST
Parish, L (Ref)
LEEDS NORTH EAST
Egan, J (Soc Lab)
LEEDS NORTH WEST
Toone, R (PL)
Duffy, D (Ronnie)
Lamb, R (Soc Lab)
LEEDS WEST
Delete: Thurston, R (NLP)
LEICESTER EAST
Slack, N (Glow)
Slidell, S (Soc Lab)
LEICESTER SOUTH
Stille, K (Nat Dem)
Dooher, J (Soc Lab)
LEICESTER WEST
Belshaw, A (BNP)
Potter, C (Nat Dem)
Nicholls, Ms J (Soc)
Roberts, D (Soc Lab)
LEICESTER NORTH WEST
Delete: White, R (Loony)
LEOMINSTER
Haycock, J (BNP)
LEWES
Delete: Shaw, P (NLP)
LEWISHAM EAST
Rizz, Captain (Dream)
Croucher, R (NLP)
LEWISHAM WEST
Long, N (Soc Lab)
LEWISHAM DEPTFORD
Mullrenan, J (Soc Lab)
Delete: Archer, R (NLP)
LEYTON & WANSTEAD
Mian, A (Ind)
LINLITHGOW
Delete: Jamieson, W (Loony)
LIVERPOOL GASTON
Parson, J (NLP)
Nolan, S (SEP)
LIVERPOOL RIVERSTIDE
Braid, D (MRAC)
Wilson, Ms C (Soc)
LIVERPOOL WALTON
Mahmood, L (Soc)
LIVERPOOL WAVERLEY
Corkhill, C (WRP)
LIVINGSTON
Culbert, M (SPGB)
Delete: Black, G (NLP)
LYNNE
Willcock, J (Soc Lab)
LONDON DERRY EAST
Gallen, C (NLP)
Higgs, R (Ind)
LOUGHBOROUGH
Delete: Bigger, J (UK Ind)
LUDLOW
Andrews, T (Grn)
LUTON NORTH
Custace, A (NLP)
LUTON SOUTH
Perrin, Ms C (NLP)

M

MAIDENHEAD
Ardley, K (Glow)
MAIDSTONE & THE WEALD
Cleator, Ms M (Soc Lab)
MANCHESTER CENTRAL
Rigby, T (Comm Lge)
Rafferty, F (Soc Lab)
MANCHESTER GORTON
Wogman, T (Soc Lab)
MANCHESTER WITHINGTON
Parson, J (NLP)
White, Ms J (Soc)
MERTHYR TYDFIL & RHYNNEY
Cowdell, O (Lab)
MIDDLESBROUGH
Delete: Curry, T (UK Ind)

MILTON KEYNES SOUTH WEST

Delete: Morris, T (PL)
MITCHAM & MORDEN
Dixon, N (ACC)
Miller, L (BNP)
Krishnapillai, V (Ind)
MOLE VALLEY
Burley (Ind CRP)
MORECOMBE & LUNSDALE
Greenwell, Mrs J (LD)
Walne, D (NLP)
Delete: Bracey, D (LD)
MOTHERWELL & WISHAW
Herriot, C (Soc Lab)

N

NEATH
Marks, H (LCP)
NEWBURY
Howse, Ms K (Soc Lab)
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
Rea, Ms B (Soc Lab)
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
East & Wallend
Ley, M (Comm Bri)
Carpenter, Ms B (Soc Lab)
NEWRY & ARMAGH
Whitcroft, P (AII)
NORFOLK MID
Frans, S (LD)
Delete: Williams, A R (LD)
NORFOLK NORTH
Delete: Mills, D (NLP)
NORWICH SOUTH
Marks, H (LCP)
Mills, D (NLP)
Hood, J (Soc Lab)
NORWICH NORTH
Delete: Hendy, C (Ref)
SOUTH SHIELDS
Wilburn, I (Shields)
SOUTHAMPTON ITCHEN
Rose, G (Soc Lab)
Marsh, G (Soc)

O

OLDHAM
Delete: Sheriff, P (Loony)
SOUTH HOLLAND & THE DEEPINGS
Erwood, G (NPC)
Delete: Hendy, C (Ref)
SOUTH SHIELDS
Wilburn, I (Shields)
SOUTHAMPTON ITCHEN
Rose, G (Soc Lab)
Marsh, G (Soc)
SOUTHPORT
Middleton, M (Nat Dem)
SOUTHWARD NORTH & BERNARDSEY
Davidson, M (BNP)
Grant, I (Comm Lge)
Ingwinson, Ms I (Nat Dem)
SPELTHORNE
Delete: Rea, D (Loony)
STAFFORD
May, A (Loony)
Delete: Holt, D (Loony)
STIRLING
Olsen, E (Value)
STOCKPORT
Southern, G (Soc Lab)
STOKE-ON-TRENT CENTRAL
Coleman, M (BNP)
STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH
Scott, Mrs S (BNP)
Batkin, S (C)
Micklethorn, Ms A (Lib)
Lawrence, B (Nat Dem)
STONE
Grice, Ms D (NLP)
STRATFORD
Chalk, G (C)

P

PAISLEY SOUTH
Clerkin, S (SSA)
PERTH
Delete: Glover, R (NLP)
PETERBOROUGH
Delete: Rose, B (Loony)
PLYMOUTH DEVONPORT
Ebbs, S (Nat Dem)
Delete: Jamieson, W (Loony)
PLYMOUTH SUTTON
Kearney, K (Plymouth)
PONTFRID
Griffiths, R (Comm Bri)
Moore, A (NLP)
Skelly, P (Soc Lab)
POOLE
Rosta, Ms J (NLP)
POPLAR & CANNING TOWN
Tyndall, J (BNP)
Joseph, Ms J (Soc Lab)
PORTSMOUTH NORTH
Becks, C (Wessex Reg)
PRESTON
Delete: Bostock, J (UK Ind)
FUTNEY
Poole, Ms A (Beaut)
Van Braam, D (Ren Dem)
Yardly, M (Spis All)
Beige, L (Sian)
READING EAST
Packer, Ms B (BNP)
READING WEST
Dell, I (BNP)
REGENTS PARK & KENSINGTON NORTH
Sadowitz, Ms D (Dream)
REIGATE
Higgs, R (Ind)
RICHMOND PARK
Delete: Wedgwood D D (UK Ind)
Davies, P (Dream)
ROCHDALE
Bergin, G (BNP)
Mohammed, S (IZB Party)
RODMFORD
Carey, M (BNP)
ROSENDALE & DARWEN
Griffin, Ms C (NLP)
RUSHCLIFFE
Maszewska, Ms A (NLP)
Moore, J (UK Ind)

S

SAFFRON WALDEN
Tyler, B (Ind)
ST ALBANS
Craven, Ms S (Dream)
ST HELENS NORTH
Watts, D (Lab)
ST HELENS SOUTH
Jump, H (NLP)
Delete: Huggan, W (Ref)
Delete: Steele, (Ref)

T

TOTTENHAM
Scandebury, A (C)
Tay, Ms E (PL)
Kent, Ms T (SEP)
Anglin, C (WRP)
Delete: Laud, D (C)
TRURO & ST AUSTELL
Robinson, Mrs D (Grn)
Hicks, D (Meb Ker)
Boland, P (NLP)
Yelland, Mrs L (PP)
TWICKENHAM
Hagger, T (Dream)
Harrison, Miss J (Ind ECR)
TYNE BRIDGE
Brunskill, Ms E (Soc)
TYNEMOUTH
Rogers, Dr F (UK Ind)
TYRONE WEST
Gormley, Ms A (All)
Owens, T (WP)
Thompson, W (LUP)

U

ULSTER MID
Donnelly, Mrs M (WP)
Murray, Ms M (NLP)
UPPER BARN
Price, B (C)
French, T (WP)
Lyons, J (NLP)
UKSBRIDGE
Leonard, J (Soc)
Delete: Griffin C (NLP)
VALE OF YORK
Pelton, T (Soc Dem)
Mcintosh, Miss A (C)
VAUXHALL
Collins, S (Grn)
Driver, I (Soc Lab)
Headcar, R (SPGB)

V

WALSALL NORTH
Humphreys, A (NP)
Pitt, M (Ind)
WALSALL SOUTH
Meades, Mrs L (NLP)
WANSLEY
Murphy, D (Lab)
Best, Dr N (Grn)
Delete: Thompson, J (Lab)
WANDSWICK
House P (Loony)
Lincoln, Ms S (NLP)
Hunt, T (UK Ind)
WANTAGE
Kennell, Ms M (Grn)
Tolison, Miloslausky, Count M (UK Ind)
WARRINGTON SOUTH
Ross, S (NLP)
WARWICK & LEAMINGTON
Baptie, P (Grn)
Gibbs, M (EDP)
McCarthy, R (NLP)
Warwick, G (UK Ind)
WARWICKSHIRE NORTH
Moorecroft, I (Bert)
Cooke, C (UK Ind)
WATFORD
Davis, L (NLP)
WAVENEY
Clark, N (Ind)
WEALDEN
Crage, P (NLP)
English, Mrs M (UK Ind)
WELLINGBOROUGH
Lowry, Ms A (NLP)
Elwood, A (UK Ind)

W

WELLS
Roya, Ms L (NLP)
WELWYN HATFIELD
Harold, Ms H (PL)
Cox, E (Justice)
WEST BROMWICH WEST
Silvester, R (Lab Change)
Edwards, S (Nat Dem)
WEST HAM
Francis, K (BNP)
Rainbow, J (Dream)
Jug, T (Loony)
WESTBURY
Hawkins, G (Lib)
Hayson, C (NLP)
Westbury, R (UK Ind)
WESTMORLAND & LONSDALE
Smith, M (Ref)
WIGAN
Maile, C (Grn)
Ayliffe, W (NLP)
WILTSHIRE NORTH
Forsyth, Ms J (NLP)
Wood, A (UK Ind)
WIMBLEDON
Thacker, R (Grn)
Stacey, G (Dream)
Kirby, M (Mongolian)
WINCHESTER
Browne, J (Ind AFE)
Stockton, P (Loony)
Huggert, R (Topi)
Rumsey, D (UK Ind)
WINDSOR
Parr, R (Dynamic)
Bradshaw, P (Lib)
Biggs, Mrs E (UK Ind)
WITNEY
Chapple-Perrie, Ms S (Grn)
Montgomery, M (UK Ind)
WORKING
Bell, H (Ind C)
Sleeman, Miss D (NLP)
Harvey, M (UK Ind)
WORKINGHAM
Owen, P (Loony)
WOLVERHAMPTON NORTH EAST
Hallmark, C (Lib)
Wingfield, M (Nat Dem)
WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH EAST
Bullman, K (Lib)
Worth, N (Soc Lab)
WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH WEST
Hyde, M (PLB)
WOODSPLING
Lawson, Dr R (Grn)
Glover, A (Ind)
Mears, M (NLP)
Hughes, R (Ref)

X

WORCESTER
Wood, Mrs P (UK Ind)
WORCESTERSHIRE MID
Oyer, A (NLP)
Ingles, D (UK Ind)
WORCESTERSHIRE WEST
Cameron, Ms S (Green)
Delete: Winsor, D (Ref)
WORKINGTON
Austin, C (UA)
WORKINGHAM
Jarvis, Mrs R (UK Ind)
WREXHAM
Low, N (NLP)
WYCOMBE
Laker, J (Grn)
Heath, M (NLP)
WYRE FOREST
Harvey, C (Lib)
Millington, J (UK Ind)
WYTHENSHAW & SALE

CRICKET: UNHERALDED BOWLER DELIVERS VICTORY FOR WARWICKSHIRE WITH FIVE-WICKET DISPLAY

Brown rips rivals apart at the seams

By JOHN THICKNESSE

WORCESTER (Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire (2pts) beat Worcestershire by six wickets

TURNING up was about all Warwickshire needed to do to win their opening group A Benson and Hedges Cup match at New Road, Worcester, batting pitifully, were dispatched for 96 in 37 overs and, by 5pm, had been buried by their fellow Midlandsers.

It was a good toss for Andy Moles to win, but not so good that Dougie Brown, 27, normally fourth seamer, should take five for 31 — two wickets better than his previous competition best — after taking the new ball and bowling his ten overs in one spell.

That Stuart Lampitt topped from No 9 and the last-wicket stand was worth more than double the next highest says all there is to say about the Worcestershire batting. Accurately as Brown bowled, the home side would expect to score 180 to 200 if they could have another go at it.

Butting with little distinction in reply, Warwickshire were 36 for four by the fourteenth over, Lampitt and Newport sharing the wickets.

But Worcestershire had too few runs to play with and, as soon as Ostler and Penney applied themselves, Warwickshire cruised home. They had 19.4 overs in hand when Ostler made the winning hit.

Brown's figures were all the more unexpected for his opening offering being confidently pulled for six by Rhodes, who

had so much time for the stroke that he seemed to be waiting on the back foot for several seconds. Within a couple of overs, however, the innings began to fall to pieces. Ostler taking a sharp low catch in the gully from a sliced square drive by Weston.

Not only did Worcestershire fail to recover, but an hour and a quarter passed before a batsman even penetrated double figures. Solanki becoming the first to do so when he pulled Welch for two with his team in irreversible decline at 39 for six.

There was movement both through the air and off the pitch for the four Warwickshire seamers. In Brown's case mainly in from the off side off the ground. Worcestershire, naturally, would also have fielded had Moody won the toss. Even making allowances for the help the bowlers got, however, it was a woeful piece of batting, not least in stroke selection.

When Rhodes, square-cutting, was bowled off the inside edge in Brown's third over, the warning lights should have been flashing in the Worcestershire dressing-room. But it seemed that Moody could not have been watching. Twenty minutes later, in Brown's fifth over, Moody was out in much the same way, bowled via the inside edge by what, to a man of 6ft 6in, was a good length ball while attempting a back-foot force through extra cover.

Brown's next victim, Spiring, leg-before for nought at 28 for four, was a rarity — a



Brown, whose spell with the new ball put Worcestershire on the way to defeat, appeals for leg-before against Hick

batsman genuinely beaten by pace and movement off a full attacking length. But the next two were no more nor less than giveaways and Hick, on whom his side was so dependent, was one of them.

Rhythmically as Donald bowled in a six-over spell with the new ball, during which there were four maidens, Hick was seeing the ball early enough to leave five balls alone in one over. Yet directly Welch replaced Donald, for

the thirteenth over, Hick incomprehensibly tried to hit his second ball over the top for four, only to drag it to mid-on. It was not a stroke calculated to recommend him to David Lloyd, the watching England coach.

Nevertheless, in the next over Leathdale capped it. With Worcestershire in the soup at 33 for five, he aimed to square-cut a ball from Brown that had he left it, John Hampshire would have called

a wide. Instead, he edged it to the wicketkeeper.

Solanki and Haynes added 19 for the seventh wicket, but it was only when Newport joined Lampitt for the tenth that conditions and bowling were put into perspective. Despite Donald bowling four of the 12 overs that it took them to add 40, Warwickshire had to call up Giles, the slow left-hander, to break the stand. Lampitt slicing him to backward point.

India have sought the help of two leading experts from New Zealand to improve their lifeless pitches. Keith McAuliffe, director of the New Zealand sports turf institute, and Russell Smith, head groundsman at Fitzherbert Park, in Palmerston North, are visiting cricketing centres in India to conduct soil tests, study the methods adopted to prepare pitches and suggest measures that might be used to improve them.

Boon provides bedrock for renewed ambition

Simon Wilde, who is following Durham's Benson and Hedges campaign this week, sees them get off to a promising start against Nottinghamshire

Victory is not a word that often appears in the vocabulary of Durham cricketers, but they may be uttering the word today after their Benson and Hedges Cup group B match was carried over when the fourth rain interruption ended yesterday's play at 5pm.

Nottinghamshire will resume this morning on 94 for three, 26 overs into their reply to Durham's workmanlike 230 for five — a total that may just prove sufficient on a typically slow Trent Bridge pitch. With Robinson, Dowman and Johnson out, Nottinghamshire will have to play well to reach their target.

In view of the fact that they have won only once against county opposition since the start of the 1996 season, Durham hardly go into matches

overburdened with self-belief, but already there are signs that David Boon, their new captain, has already started the process of strengthening spines.

With Nottinghamshire's assortment of seamers moving the ball around, the first-wicket partnership of 82 between Lewis and Collingwood gave Durham just the steady start they needed.

They both fell within the space of four overs, Collingwood bowled by the tidy Bates one short of a deserved half-century and Lewis caught leg-before by Archer for 38. Boon came in

to act as the rock on which the rest of the innings was built, the more important as Morris was missing, nursing the injured thumb that he suffered in the opening championship match at Old Trafford last week.

He lifted Tolley for one effortless six over mid-wicket, but generally contented himself with working the ball around. His unbeaten 64 — his third in four innings for his new county — occupied 73 balls but more importantly he saw to it that he stayed until the end of the 50 overs, enabling the likes of Roseberry, Speak and Speight to play their most

natural game. Roseberry, who spent the winter trying to discover form that had become as elusive as the Holy Grail, showed one or two classy touches, only for it to go to his head.

He danced down the pitch once too often to Bates and was comfortably stumped by Noon. Noon later brought Speak's highest innings for his new club to an end with a fine running catch from a top-edged pull. Nottinghamshire could have done with Robinson dropping anchor in the style of Boon, but he was strangely unfaithful to his character,

carving ambitiously at a ball outside off stump from the lively Bates and giving Speight the easier of his two catches.

Dowman looked good until he got out, but a more significant loss was that of Johnson, who tried to work the ball extravagantly to leg and was bowled by Bolling. Much today may depend on Archer, who played elegantly through the on side in moving serenely to 34.

This is a match devoid of overseas players. Nottinghamshire are hoping that the back injury that Mohammad Akram, their signing, sustained in the Test he is playing in Colombo will not prevent him joining them later this week, even if it keeps him out of a one-day tournament in India next month.

Derbyshire rely on Adams to salvage their pride

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

LAKENHAM (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire, with eight wickets in hand, require 91 from 18 overs to beat Minor Counties

IF DERBYSHIRE head down the long and winding Benson and Hedges Cup road to Lord's, they will remember this salutary warning. They bowled badly, looked to a batting line-up lacking substance and thanked their lucky stars for Chris Adams, the man England have ignored.

Adams thrashed 95 not out, with ten fours and three sixes from 83 balls, and resumes today in flourishing partnership with Dean Jones. During a bizarre attempt to beat the weather and win the match before the third and terminal rain stoppage, Devon Malcolm batted at No 3 with a brief but violent flourish.

Much of the day had been lost to the Minor Counties. The butcher, baker and candlestick-maker buckled down to this annual challenge, delving somewhat stargazed into the world of other professionals. This time, it was the Newark Boris, Mark Fell, and the factory supervisor, Richard Dalton, of Bedfordshire, who took up the cudgels.

From the depths of nine for two, the Minor Counties, with only six previous competition wins in various guises from 129 games, reached the peaks of 256 for seven — only 16 runs short of their highest total when the competition was five overs longer.

These delights also put Derbyshire's support bowling into perspective. It was abject. Once Phillip DeFreitas and Malcolm disappeared from the attack, Andrew Harris and the left-armers, Kevin Dean and Glenn Roberts, were dispatched with ease.

Fell, 36, in his Lincolnshire testimonial year, made 67 from 69 balls with a six and seven fours against the county he represented 12 years ago after his release by Nottinghamshire.

Dalton, a past captain of the England Indoor XI and a tourist to South Africa with their squad last winter, also enjoyed himself hugely, hitting four sixes and eight fours in a 59-ball innings of 76.

Their batting, together with 43 not out from Stewart Laudat, also illustrated that the pitch was not what it appeared, despite the venerable Wayne Larkins making a 12-ball duck on his Minor Counties debut. Slow and with a green top, it offered precious little movement and Derbyshire's outfielding was variable.

Scotland reeling as Maddy signals humiliation

By RICHARD HOBSON

LEICESTER (Scotland won toss): Leicestershire beat Scotland by 178 runs

A SCOTTISH bowler took five wickets in the Benson and Hedges Cup yesterday, but, unfortunately for Scotland, Dougie Brown was playing for Warwickshire rather than the country of his birth. Officials remain optimistic that Brown will make himself available for the World Cup in 1999, but, on this evidence, the Scotland attack will need further reinforcements to avoid acute embarrassment when they face Australia and the West Indies.

Eight of the squad that secured third place in the ICC Trophy had exhausted their holiday entitlement in Malaysia and were pursuing their various full-time occupations yesterday. Those who appeared at Grace Road might have wondered what pleasure they truly derived from taking such an emphatic beating on a dreary afternoon.

Leicestershire's total of 371 for six was the second-highest in the competition and the best since it moved to a 50-over format last season. The tempo became increasingly rapid and Darren Maddy was only denied the century his wristy strokeplay merited when he was caught at long leg attempting to reach that landmark in the grand manner.

Scotland were effectively attempting to conduct a damage limitation exercise even during the later stages of an opening stand of 159 in 25 overs between Maddy and Ian Sutcliffe. Aftab Habib recorded a half-century from 34 balls thereafter, John Dakin struck 28 from just 14 and Graham Huribatt suffered the ignominy of having to open a gate and run into Milligan Road to retrieve the longest hit of the day from Gregor McMillan, whose parents were born in Scotland. Huribatt might have tried to lock himself out.

Scotland, too, began comfortably, but lost wickets regularly once Bruce Patterson had his leg stump removed by Dakin at the end of a first-wicket stand of 76 with Iain Philip.

Leicestershire expect to be strengthened tomorrow by the arrival of Neil Johnson in time to play against Nottinghamshire in their next group B fixture. They finally completed the signing of the 27-year-old South African all-rounder after protracted negotiations yesterday. Johnson, a left-handed batsman and medium-pace bowler, was originally contracted to play for Netherfield and Leicestershire have paid £7,500 in compensation to the Northern League side.

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Sri Lanka open way for victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lanka opening bowlers and batsmen combined to put their side in a strong position on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

At the close, Sanath Jayasuriya and Russell Arnold had consolidated some good work from Chaminda Vaas and Sajeeva de Silva, the seam bowlers, by sharing an unfinished partnership of 102, giving Sri Lanka an overall lead of 141. The first Test in the two-match series was drawn. Jayasuriya was undefeated on 61, scored off 123 balls with six fours, and Arnold, playing in only his second Test, was 29 not out.

The Pakistan attack was depleted by the absence of Mohammad Zahid and Shahid Nazir, the fast bowlers, who were both suffering from back injuries. Pakistan also lost the services of Moin Khan, the wicket-keeper, who did not take the field in the Sri Lanka second innings because of a painful right heel.

Sri Lanka capitalised on these injuries to take a first-innings lead of 39, with Vaas and Sajeeva de Silva taking nine wickets between them to dismiss Pakistan for 292 at tea.

Sri Lanka took the last four Pakistan wickets for 16 runs, three of them being claimed by Sajeeva de Silva, who finished with figures of five for 85 in his second Test.

Moin was dismissed two runs short of his fourth Test century after an exhilarating innings which lasted only 109 balls and included three sixes and nine fours.

Experience pulls Sussex through

By IVO TENNANT

HOVE (Hampshire won toss): Sussex (2pts) beat Hampshire by 49 runs

DOWN the years, the Benson and Hedges Cup is not a competition in which Sussex have excelled. They have never reached the semi-finals and, in their last three encounters with Hampshire, have not won once. Hence this victory, achieved after a heavy defeat the previous day and batting initially yesterday without much initiative, was to be relished.

A partnership between two of their more itinerant cricketers effectively won the match. Sussex were 117 for five and then 144 for six, having been put in to bat, when Bill Athey was joined by Paul Jarvis. Together, they added 87 in ten overs through the kind of judicious strokes that come with years of experience.

Hampshire, in spite of two

useful innings by Stephenson and Hayden, simply did not possess sufficient depth of batting. There is likely to be a long season.

So, after being beaten by Northamptonshire the previous day, this was just the flip side of the coin. That applied, not least, to Robin Marlar, their new chairman, who was nursing a badly swollen arm yesterday. He announced that



Stephenson: fine innings

Tony Pigott is now to be chief executive on a permanent basis. The former fast bowler is also on an MCC committee and, consequently, has retired from playing in any competitions, including The Cricketer Cup.

Both chairman and chief executive were keen to glean what they could from their Hampshire counterparts about ground development. Sussex have not excluded the idea of moving from Hove and wanted to find out about the forthcoming venue near Southampton airport that will be Hampshire's new home.

On the field, the mix of old and new was a good one. Individuals that comprise this Sussex side showed they could yet fare better than expected this season. In Neil Taylor, they have acquired a batsman who, judged solely on cricketing merit, would not have left Kent. He and the two Yorkshiremen, Athey and Jarvis, are the oldest members of

the team. There is still a place in the game for them and they all contributed yesterday.

So, too, did Amer Khan, the leg spinner who has come from Middlesex (and who is no relation of that fellow Lahorite who once played here). He deceived Kendall with a top spinner, bowled Aymes and had James leg-before as he was starting to give Stephenson the support that was needed when Hampshire's innings was faltering.

The captain was last out, having managed only three fours in his innings of 65. Hayden was likewise restricted, his 44 runs including just two fours. There was a little movement for the faster bowlers throughout the day, but not sufficient for such containment. The gold award went — for the first time in his long career — to Jarvis, who cut one back to remove Smith early in Hampshire's innings and took two other wickets to go with his unbeaten 42.

Irani puts case for another chance

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex (2pts) beat Glamorgan by five wickets

RONNIE IRANI'S deflating experience on tour with England during the winter has not dampened his enthusiasm. He was not asked to play much in Zimbabwe and New Zealand and, when he was, his ability was called into question. Nevertheless, he is already demanding another chance in the forthcoming one-day internationals against Australia.

He started the season with 49 and 123 not out in the county championship against Hampshire, scored another 48 in the Sunday league and yesterday saw Essex over their first, tricky Benson and Hedges Cup hurdle with an innings that could not have been more responsible and authoritative.

Nobody was more grateful than Nasser Hussain, the Essex and England vice-captain, who had ricked his neck so badly in the field that he was left sitting in the dressing-room taking pain killers and hoping that he would not have to bat.

It looked as though he was going to have to go to the wicket when Essex, chasing a modest 211, began to make as big a hash of their innings as Glamorgan had done, but then Irani took control in partnership first with Danny Law and then Robert Rollins.

Irani, whose concentration had already been disturbed by a 40-minute stoppage for rain, was so confident that he even turned down the umpire's offer to go off for bad light when Watkin began his final spell. Law, who had helped put on 62 in 12 overs, fell to Watkin's third ball, but Irani lost no time in justifying his decision,

seeing off the dangerous Watkin and then virtually settling the match by pulling Thomas for six and driving him for four.

He went on to finish unbeaten on 82, including two sixes and eight fours, off 97 balls, and, with Rollins joining him in an unbroken partnership of 54 in ten overs, Essex won with nearly seven overs to spare.

It was comfortable in the end, but they had made hard work of it after Glamorgan had as good as surrendered the match by losing their last eight wickets for 69. They were going well when Morris and Maynard were putting on 73 in 15 overs, but Morris, looking for a second six off Such, was caught at deep square leg and Maynard got out in the next over. When the captain does something like that, it is difficult to blame anyone else.

Russell will not budge over book

By ALAN LEE

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CRICKET is set for another messy and protracted disciplinary case, once more involving a book and with Raymond Illingworth as a central character. This time, however, the author is Jack Russell, discarding his image as the uncompromising martyr to deliver what he views as a few home truths about Illingworth's man-management style.

Russell confirmed yesterday that his book, *Unleashed*, which is already being serialised in a tabloid newspaper, will be published unaltered in three weeks' time, despite his failure to obtain the sanction of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over the more sensitive passages. The ECB could suspend Russell, who threatens to retaliate in the courts.

Illingworth is portrayed in an unflattering light and, predictably, the retired chairman of selectors is none too pleased about it. Russell refers specifically to the winter tours to South Africa and the World Cup in 1995-96, when Illingworth was team manager.

Russell maintains that he has not broken his contracts, either with Gloucestershire or as an England tourist, but he is aware that he could be charged with bringing the game into disrepute. Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, said yesterday: "The board will look at today's [newspaper] article and any serious ones and, if there are any concerns then, the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee."

BY JACK BAILEY

CHANGING TIMES

GOLF: RYDER CUP VETERAN RECOVERS HIS TOUCH AS 1997 MATCH APPROACHES

Bruiser James back in the hunt

By MEL WEBB

THE quarry has suddenly shown itself after remaining out of sight for an age and the old hunter has picked up his ears. If history is anything to go by, he will not be satisfied until he has his teeth sunk firmly into his target's rump. It is Ryder Cup year. Mark James is back.

James won the Spanish Open at the third hole of a play-off at La Moraleja II on Sunday with a performance that saw him at his obdurate, adhesive, bloody-minded best. On the face of it, he should not have had the barest whiff of a chance.

Consider this: he had not won for more than two years; in finishing 16th in the European order of merit in 1996, 84 places worse than his previous lowest. In a distinguished career, he had not driven well, hit his iron well, putted well or, crucially, thought well. Moreover, he was playing against Greg Norman, the man who needed only a top-ten finish to regain his place from Tom Lehman at the top of the official world rankings. It was like pitching a scarred bull terrier in a race against a greyhound, was it not? No chance. And yet...

James is a doughty battler at any time. Give him a challenge and he will rise to it, he is that sort of a chap — but dangle the words "Ryder Cup" in front of his quizzical, mustachioed face and the bull terrier turns to rattlesnake. The rules of engagement this time were simple — the loser gets a good deal less and a golfing bloody nose.

The "X" factor was Sam Ryder's famous old trophy. James becomes a different man in odd-numbered years — it is as though his circadian rhythms depend on lining up against 12 Americans some time in September when the dates cannot be divided by two.

To be honest, at the end of last year there seemed more probability of James sailing

round the world single-handed in a shoe box than of him claiming a place in the 32nd Ryder Cup. Men who finish 16th in the order of merit simply do not play in Ryder Cups. This one might, however.

Ask him why he loves playing in the match and he will probably think a bit, smile a sardonic smile and give a reply born of a wit that is as dry as the finest Chablis. Take no notice — he loves it as much as the next man, especially if he happens to be Sam Torrance, another player of certain years who likes a few games of golf and a good cry come Ryder Cup time.

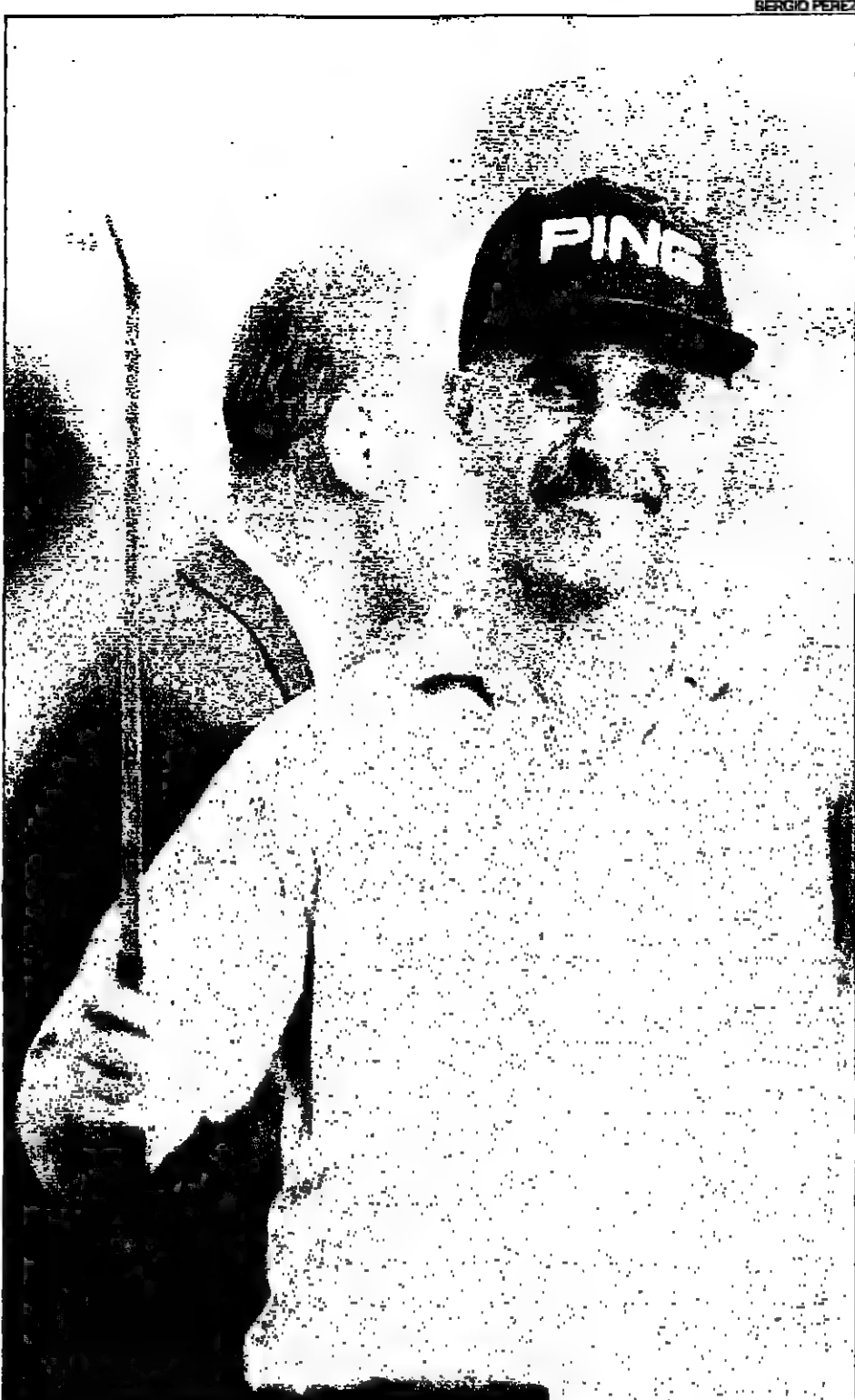
James is about to enter his 22nd summer as a PGA European Tour player and professional golf has been kind to him. This son of Lancashire who lives in Yorkshire — he has a lovely house and a much-cherished garden in Ilkley — was a likely lad in the days of his youth. His antics in the company of Ken Brown ruffled a few feathers in the 1979 Ryder Cup match at The Greenbrier.

They are so embedded in the curriculum vitae of both men that they will never shake them off, no matter that they are now both highly respected. James, still, as a player and, as the chairman of the European Tour's tournament committee, Brown as one of the wise men of televised golf.

On the course, James is as difficult to beat at the age of 43 as he was a decade ago. Until 1996, that is, but events on Sunday have put him back on the right track.

"This win was very important," he said. "You can get lost and if you lose it for a season or two at my age, there is less incentive to work your butt off to get it back."

Now the incentive has returned and on it is painted, in big red letters, "Valderrama, 1997". He is not, but very far away, it is true, but wherever he was, he's back. And a good thing, too.



James signals his delight after winning the play-off for the Spanish Open title

TABLE TENNIS

Syed fails to save England

By RICHARD EATON

A DETERMINED victory by Matthew Syed over both Peter Karlsson, the world No 15, and his own increasing exhaustion was not enough to rescue England from defeat against Sweden at the world championships in Manchester yesterday.

The result ended the men's team's hope of reaching the quarter-finals, but a 3-1 defeat and the right to play-off for places nine to 16 were satisfactory rewards from a campaign

in which performances have often exceeded expectations. That was certainly true of Syed against Karlsson. "I was dead mentally and physically," said the Commonwealth champion, whose retrieving around the back of the court requires him to work harder than any of his colleagues. "I just tried to eke something out, fight as hard as I could and hope it worked."

When Syed was a game and 12-16 down, his efforts looked

to have been in vain, but he hung on and a couple of mistakes with forehand loops suddenly seemed to affect Karlsson's confidence.

Once Syed had pushed the match into a third game, the Sweden misread increasingly the defensive spins and Syed's victory was completed when Karlsson hit another forehand loop off the table, immediately appealing loudly both to the umpire and his own teammates that it had taken an edge. His appeals changed nothing and Syed was the winner by 17-21, 21-19, 21-17.

Carl Prean stretched Jan-Ove Waldner in the first game, but the former world champion was too full of silken top spins for his opponent and won 22-20, 21-13. Jorgen Persson beat Alan Cooke in straight games and Cooke also lost the last encounter to Waldner, 21-14, 21-16.

Later, with Syed rested, England lost 3-0 to Austria, which means that the highest they can now finish is thirteenth.

A later group defeat against Belgium meant that Sweden were forced to confront China, their great rivals, in the quarter-finals. Sweden's misgivings were justified — China beat them 3-1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
European under-21 championship
Qualifying group two
England v Georgia
(at The Valley, 7.45)

Group four
Sweden v Scotland
(at Trosvaard, 8.30)

Group eight
Romania v Ireland
(at Bucharest, 8.45)

Netherlands League
Second division
Monterbe v Southampton (7.45)

Third division
Cardiff v Rochdale (7.45)

Verstael Conference
Aldershot v Stevenage (7.45)

Bath v Farnborough (7.45)

Monterbe v Southampton (7.45)

Rushden and Diamonds v Woking (7.45)

Welling v Slough (7.45)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Sweden v Romania (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Denmark v Netherlands (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
France v Czech Republic (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Italy v Spain (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Greece v Portugal (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Czech Republic v France (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Spain v Italy (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

UEFA UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP
Portugal v Greece (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

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Greece v France (at Gipp Lane, 8.30)

CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup
11.0, 50 overs
DUBLIN (Castle Avenue): Ireland v
Middlesex

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v
Middlesex

LAKESHAM: Minor Counties v
Derbyshire

TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v
Durham

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
Fourth division south
Chesham v Henley (8.0)

Welsh League
First division
Swansea v Carmarthen (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE
Premier division
Aston v Oldham (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

SMOKER: Embassy world championships
(at Sheffield)

TABLE TENNIS: World championships (at
Manchester)

TELEVISION CHOICE

One for the Dando fan club

Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt

BBC1, 7.00pm

For those who cannot get enough of Jill Dando, whether it is reading the news, hosting *Crimestatch* or jolting on some tropical beach (in the case of duty, naturally) here is yet more. The Dando fan club will recall a previous edition of *Fasten Your Seatbelt* in which she tried to pass herself off as an air stewardess. Despite dropping things and getting in a muddle over change, she now moves on to a bigger challenge as she joins the staff of Walt Disney World in Florida. She starts modestly with a dustpan and broom before donning a wig and dark glasses to play a 1940s Hollywood starlet and after that skipping the Jungle Cruise. Celebrities threatening to make fools of themselves in future programmes include Carol Smilie as a hotel waitress and Toyah Wilcox as a chaperone.

Children's Hospital

BBC1, 8.00pm

Most of the patients featured in this series are in Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool through no fault of their own. Baby Fiona, whom we met last week, was born with a hole in the diaphragm, a piece of the wall of muscle beneath her lungs. She is on the mend from life-saving surgery. Steven, who is ten, has brittle bones and has undergone six operations to insert metal rods in his legs and arms. Surgery on his club foot may enable him to walk for the first time in his life. But the horrendous burns suffered by 12-year-old Martin were nobody's fault but his own. He was "surfing" on a coal train when he was electrocuted by an overhead cable. Not that the Alder Hey medics are in the business of making moral judgments. Martin gets the same level of care and treatment as any of the hospital's other young charges.

Touching Evil

ITV, 9.00pm

Faced with an almost impossible challenge, a new format for a police series, the writer Paul Abbott has come up with a national rapid response unit inspired by the FBI and specialising in organised and serial crime. Less original is the unit's star man, a detective inspector (Robson Green from



Jill Dando in Disney World (BBC1, 7pm)

Abbott's *Reckless*, who, like many of his television ilk, uses unorthodox methods and has an unhappy marriage. His sparring partner is another DI (Nicola Walker), only 25 and seemingly young for her rank. Abbott also wrote for *Cracker* and this new show has the brooding *Cracker* look and something of its dramatic intensity. The first case concerns the abduction of children in Britain and Germany. With only one suspect, the question is not whodunnit but whether they can pin it on him. The two-part story concludes next week.

Cutting Edge Special: One Night Stand

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Meet three very different people with one thing in common, the archetypal formula for a television documentary. Bonnie is 24 and a single mother. Mark is a 25-year-old bachelor and Jean-Yves is a gay man in his thirties. All are practitioners of the one night stand, enjoying the pleasures of sex but determined to avoid long-term commitments. According to the film, which follows them, they variously night spots in search of a pickup, they have no difficulty finding temporary partners of like mind. Or perhaps we are not shown the times when they return empty-handed. It may seem a curious way of life but all three make a case for it. They say the danger is getting to like the person too much, making it difficult to get out of the relationship. At least Jean-Yves manages to extricate himself with some delicacy and style. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Croft Originals

Radio 2, 9.30pm

The history of British television comedy would have taken a very different course if David Croft had stuck to his first love, singing in stage musicals. "I sang quite well," he tells presenter Ian Lavender in tonight's *Croft Originals*. He most certainly did. We hear his interpretations of *Ko-Ko* from *The Mikado* and *Hard-boiled Herman* from *Rose-Marie*. His fate decreed that Croft should turn to television, producing, directing and co-writing with Jimmy Perry and Jeremy Lloyd such hit comedy series as *Dad's Army*, *Hi-De-Hi* and *It Ain't Half Hot Mum*. Croft is now in his seventies and talking seriously of retirement. This tribute to him is well deserved, though. In my opinion, somewhat overdue.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whalley 2.00am Carol 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsweek 7.00am Interview with Tony Blair 7.00am London Music Week. Includes music from London. A.C. Acoustics and Tinkles 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clare Sturges 4.00am Clare Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 8.00 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman: The Greatest Star 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 Johnny Jones: The Duke and his Mum 8.30 Lord John Elton 10.30am Richard Allinson 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00am Alex Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

8.00am Morning Reports 8.00 The Breakfast Programme. Includes Racing Preview 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm News on Five 4.00 John Inverdale 7.00pm News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Show. Introduced by Simon Mann. Includes coverage of England's Under-21 game against Georgia 10.00am Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00am After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night with Rod Sharp

TALK RADIO

8.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00am Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00am Peter Dinkley 7.00am Moe Dee's Sportszone 10.00am James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Brahms (Viola Sonata in F minor, Op 120 No 1); Handel (Music for the Royal Fireworks), Korngold (Prelude and Serenade), Schumann (Overture: Manfred); Shostakovich (Film Music: Alone, excerpts); Mozart (Piano Quartet in G minor)

9.00am Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Adams (The Chairman Dances); Grieg (Islands Romanticism); Grieg (Holberg Suite, Op 40)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman. Includes Ravel (Rhapsodie Espagnole), Tippett (Sicily for Airedale), Wilson (Serenade for Strings), Britten (Les Illuminations), Massenet (Piano Concerto in E flat)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Haydn. Includes The BBC Orchestra, Krumpoltz (Harp Concerto No 6); Handel (Suite in F major, Op 33)

2.30 Voices. Ian Burdette presents: an irreverent compilation of songs that explore the themes of youth and adolescence (1)

3.15 The BBC Orchestra. The BBC Philharmonic, under Vasily Shteyn. Includes Szymanowski (Concert Overture; Symphony No 2)

4.00 Spirit of the Age. The third programme of the monthly series. The history of dance. Dancing and playing have changed gradually since the 19th century, however. Jeremy Barlow and Michelle Wandor explore what dance can still tell us about musical performance (1)

5.00 Music Machine. Verity Sharp talks to Elizabeth Thompson, editor of *The Dylan Companion*, about the impact of Bob Dylan's music in the 1960s

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today. Includes Sports News and Thought for the Day 8.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party 8.55 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Election Call. Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to the leader of the Labour Party, Tony Blair

10.00 News: Watston Goes Walkabout (FM). Oliver Watston discovers a different pace of life in the rural scene of Isle of Wight (4/4)

10.30 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour with Jenni Murray. This week's programme includes a report on the work being carried out by the Institute of Psychiatry's Child Trauma Clinic in London

12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Riddock

12.25pm Word of Mouth. Russell Davies explores non-serious song lyrics and the art of the threatening letter (5/1) 1.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News: Books and Company. The last in the current series includes a biography of the film maker Joseph Conrad with Richard Coles (1)

2.30 Comparing Notes with Brian Kay. Brian Kay investigates pianos and player-pianos with guests Rex Lawson and Denis Hall

3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brennan. Shelley McAllister talks about the trials and tribulations of her move from a fashionable abode in West London to a damp cottage on the Isle of Wight

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan talks to the author Paul Theroux as he publishes his latest

novel set in Hong Kong. Plus a look at an autobiography of the poet R.S. Thomas

4.45 Short Story: Ivan and Wally, by Michael Coney 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Minor Adjustment, by Andy and Eric Merriman. A six-part comedy about a family with a young daughter who has Down's Syndrome. Starring Peter Davison, Samantha Bond and Peter Jones

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 File on 4. Topical news and up to the minute features with reporter Joyn Jenkins

8.00 Science Now. The psychologist Martin Conway presents a look at the latest in brain-scanning techniques (1)

8.30 The Network. In the first of a new series of the programme that explores the information age, Alun Lewis looks at the history and the future of global communications

9.00 In Touch. Peter White with news and features for visually impaired people

9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton

10.45 Book at Bedtime: One of Ours, by Willa Cather. Read by Ian Porter (7/12)

11.00 Mediuwre. A review of the week's media events with Vincent Harris (1)

11.30 A Night with... Natalie Hodgson. The active 83-year-old talks about the importance of night time in her busy schedule, which includes bee-keeping, lavender farming, water-skiing and gliding (2/6) (1)

12.00 News Inc 12.27am approx Weather

12.30am The Late Book: High Fidelity, by Nick Hornby. Read by Alan Davies (7/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

MOUNSTER

(a) The old-fashioned form of *monster*. "I am so glad to see that young Jodie is learning to ride. Look at them go now: mount and little mounster!"

COCKALORUM

(a) A self-important little man. From High Cockalorum, an energetic game said to be not unlike leap-frog. The exact nature of this game is obscure. But it sounds very similar to the modern game of General Elections. In which self-important little men (and women) make fools of themselves.

PARALOGISM

(c) Illogical reasoning, the illogicality of which the reasoner in question is unaware of. From the Greek for beyond or beside reason. "Ab, Herr Professor, how can I possibly be expected to match you in paralogism?"

AUTOCHTHON

(a) An original inhabitant. The highfalutin' Greek synonym for the Latin *aboriginal*. Incidentally, there is no such word as *aborigine*. But *aborigines* is an acceptable plural for *aboriginal*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qe7! And if 2.fxc? Bg7 and Black will emerge much material ahead.

Cutting Edge Special - One Night Stand: Tonight 9.00

People with one thing on their mind



4

This thriller was fatally infected with apathy

Oh, the power of drama to engage the anxieties of an audience. Don't go across that contaminated field; we may hiss, curling up on the sofa. "Don't cut your finger!" "Don't make friends with that loony!" What a shame, then, that last night's much-traited epidemic thriller *Breakout* (BBC1) was so ponderous and unconvincing that it completely by-passed this usual type of audience appeal. "Oh go across there if you must," we yawningly instructed the poor dupes destined to be infected by a superbug. "Yes you, madam. Woman with the woolly hat. Bear right and follow the path. You can't miss it."

Why was *Breakout* so bad? Well, there is a theory about the first (hilariously bad) quartet of *Hamlet* that it was dictated illegally to a printer by the actor who'd played the minor role of Marcellus (the night-watchman). What

climches this theory is that only Marcellus's rather functional lines are delivered fully and ungarbled, while the larger plot of regicide, soliloquy and madness he cheerfully barks. (Act Five comes out something like "Oh, and then there's a swordfight and they all die.")

Were a scholar of the future to conduct the same sort of textual analysis of Michael Stewart's *Breakout*, he would immediately guess that it was written by a lab technician, since all the brightly-eyed passion went into lines such as "Then I extracted the DNA super-naturel (the stuff floating on the top)" while the larger matters of suspense and characterisation were left forlornly to fend for themselves.

Basically, there was this lab with this genetic super-bug, and it got out. Within the lab, people kept telling each other things they knew already: "There is no way a

bacular [sic] virus can jump the species barrier!" "Our loan is dependent on approving the pesticide!" "There is an issue of principle here. It's a question of truth and the public's right to know!" Ho hum. It went on like this for an hour and a half. Meanwhile, Neil Dudgeon was insanely miscast as an entrepreneurial huffin, and Samantha Bond wrestled admirably with a character that had no history, no interest, and (strangely) guess that she was the one jumper. She found herself unaccountably attracted to the ambitious Romanian research student Stefan (Marius Stanescu) who, of course, decided to kill her when they were alone in the lab at night. Ho hum again.

Back in the safety zone of the 1980s and *Bramwell* (ITV), scientific disagreement proved it could be a good deal more arresting. Dr Robert (David Calder) was now fully enamoured of the rich widow Mrs

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

of the rich widow Mrs Costigan (Maureen Beattie), he had his big chance last night to impress her with his medical machismo. He puffed out his chest and was immovable. And to be honest, it was rather thrilling.

Mrs Costigan's baby nephew was suffering from a twisted intestine — we must operate at once, says Robert. But "No, never!" declares the rich widow, who has

personal reasons for abhorring the knife. Enter top surgeon Aubrey, who happens likewise to be in love with him. Producing a little rubber hose, Aubrey says grandly he will clear the blockage without surgery, by pumping gas up the child's backside! Robert is alarmed (as is the baby). Both doctors fling slanderous accusations and then lock antlers above the cot, while Mrs Costigan's pretty blue eyes fill with boiling tears.

And who is proved right, finally? The poor constipated baby, having already been (in vain) pumped up like a balloon, feels the surgeon's blade nevertheless, and is preserved from death by a bit of good old-fashioned slicing. "There's a lot of damage been done to the intestinal wall," says Robert, thoughtfully fingering a little red worm hooked around his finger. "But I think we caught it just in time." His defiance of Mrs Costigan may have cost him his

happiness, but he is a doctor and has saved a life.

But what's this? Mrs Costigan isn't angry with him anyway? "Having fought you so hard," she announces, "I know what you are. And I can think of no one whose judgment I would trust more." So, while the baby (unseen) does a massive, blissful poo in the background, Robert takes Mrs Costigan's hand. "I care for you, Alice," he says. "I care for you very much." Alice gasps. "And I thought I'd lost you!"

Some months ago, I posted a theory about how *Eastenders* (BBC1) is written, in an attempt to explain how young Joe had stopped being mad like a light being switched off. Did the production office put little fuzzy-felt symbols next to each character's name? Did Joe's "Mad" symbol fall off one day and get sucked up by a vacuum cleaner? It

was as good an explanation as any for this merciful release, but how I wish I'd never mentioned it now. Damn it, somebody has found the bit of fuzzy-felt in the vacuum-cleaner bag. They've wiped off the worst of the fluff, and stuck it back on the wall.

So Joe is back to staring weirdly at people, and talking in paranoid riddles, and reading *War of the Worlds* with his mouth open. But at least this time his usually obtuse mum Lorraine hasn't failed to notice. "I saw all the signs. I just kidded myself," she confessed last night. Joe invited a load of down-and-outs into the flat at midnight, and called them his disciples — and for once Lorraine didn't look up at him with those weird wide eyes and say "That's nice, love. You needed some friends."

Perhaps it was Lorraine who knocked that fuzzy-felt off the board in the first place? I wouldn't put it past her.

6.00am Business Breakfast (37165)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (70104252)
9.05 Election Call Leader of the Opposition, Tony Blair, answers viewers' questions. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (0903529)

10.00 Style Challenge (12271)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (77523)
11.00 News (T) and weather (14163287)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (9533078)
11.35 Snooker: World Championship Early coverage from the quarter-finals at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre (3759562)

12.35pm Good Living (9140455)
1.00 News (T) and weather (35610)
1.30 Regional News (50787639)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (16337225)
2.10 Snooker: World Championship Live coverage as the quarter-finals take place in Sheffield (4018287)

3.30 Mouse and Mole (9150146) 3.35 Playdays (944535) 3.55 Arthur (6458252) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5831504) 4.35 News (7877455)
5.00 Newsround (T) (5538504)
5.10 The Lowdown Profile of a 12-year-old sufferer of the rare, common skin disease vitiligo (6483225)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (913349)
6.00 News (T) and weather (900)
6.30 Regional News (252)
7.00 [Choice] Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelts! Seafront jill Dando experiences the island industry first-hand at Disney World in Florida (T) (9848)

7.30 Endless Lorraine is forced to land the shocking truth about Joe, Gita discovers Sanjay has been hiding something and Carol and Alan have cause for celebration at last (T) (436)
8.00 [Choice] Children's Hospital The paediatricians treat a teenager who was badly burned when a prank on a railway line went wrong (T) (6146)

8.30 Goodnight Gary begins to have second thoughts as he wedding to Phoebe draws ever closer (T) (9861)
9.00 News (T) and weather (982829)
9.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (727891)
10.00 The British Academy Awards 1997 Lenny Henry introduces the star-studded gala occasion live from London's Royal Albert Hall as celebrities gather to honour the best in the worlds of television and film. Famous faces appearing include Michael Caine, Richard Harris, Kate Winslet, Alison Steadman and Stephen Fry. Subsequent programme may run late (6157523) WALES: 10.00 Week in Week Out Special, Election '97 (37287) 10.40 The British Academy Awards 1997 (28345726) 1.00 FILM: Midnight Cowboy (134296) 3.00 News (9867869)

12.15am Midnight Cowboy (1969) John Schlesinger's Oscar-winning drama following the offbeat but touching friendship between a streetwise New York vagrant (Dustin Hoffman) and a naive Texas country boy (Jon Voight) (157450)
2.05 Weather (3671769)

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1
6.00am Morning Glory (12762) 9.00 Regis and Kathie Lee (68356) 10.00 American Idol (85242) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (7078) 11.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (52778) 1.00pm Oprah (8146) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (6144) 3.00 Jerry Jones (1007) 4.00 Oprah with News (5707) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 6.00 Star Trek (3533) 6.30 Married... with Children (6137) 7.00 The Simpsons (6000) 7.30 M*A*S*H (5177) 8.00 Sports (6030) 8.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 9.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 12.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 1.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 2.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 4.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 7.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 8.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1271) 9.00 Star 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Generation (1271)

Poll's feuding descendants trigger memories of historic assassination



The cause was Europe, the outcome deadly. Damian Whitworth finds strange resonances between 1812 and today

IN THE drowsy villages around Sandringham, the general election campaign has been enlivened by talk of assassination. The monarch, it should be said at once, is not at risk. But in her backyard a political feud is being fought that resonates with the history of a bloody episode in British political life.

In 1812, Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated, was shot on his way to a committee meeting in the Commons by John Bellingham, a disgruntled merchant. Now a descendant of the assassin, Henry Bellingham, finds himself up against a Perceval determined to terminate his political career, albeit by the ballot box rather than by any more dramatic method.

Roger Perceval, whose family somewhere along the line apparently replaced an "e" with an "i", claims kinship with the former Whig Prime Minister. He is standing for the Referendum Party against Mr Bellingham, who has held the seat of Norfolk North-West since 1983.

Then, as now, the sticking point was Europe. John Bellingham lost a fortune on the Continent when he was imprisoned in Russia and he took violently against Perceval when he refused to support the merchant's claim for false imprisonment. Bellingham pleaded insanity after the killing but was hanged.

Henry Bellingham says that he is unimpressed by the historical link. "It is a little nuance of the campaign which is perfectly harmless. Roger Perceval doesn't strike me as a descendant of a prime minister. But then I don't look like an assassin. John Bellingham was a wayward member of the family."

It is true that Mr Perceval does not have the appearance of a ruthless political hitman. But while his belief that he will win the seat outright may be a little optimistic, he may just do for Mr Bellingham by taking enough votes to help Labour to sneak in and capture the seat.

Mr Bellingham has a notional majority of a little more than 11,000 over Labour but the Referendum Party has a high profile in the constituency and he knows that he has a fight on his hands. He has responded by saying in his election address that he wants a referendum on the wider issue of Europe and not just on the single currency, to which he is hostile.

Out canvassing in villages close to the Queen's estate yesterday, he skipped swiftly between doorsteps undeterred by heavy showers. When he stopped for lunch in the Rose and Crown in Harpley, he worked his way through a pile of personal letters to constituents who had been discovered by canvassers to be leaning towards the Referendum Party.

Mr Perceval's kinship with the former Prime Minister is unclear. The link cannot be traced through the pages of *Burke or Debrett*. "But my father was called Spencer Perceval and it is a name that has come down through the family. I am sure there is a connection."

What is clear is that the fight for this seat will stop only just short of pistols at dawn on the Queen's lawn. Henry Bellingham, who has proved himself a crack shot on local sporting estates, is confining himself to shooting from the lip and appealing for those wavering towards the Referendum Party to see reason.



The murder of Spencer Perceval on his way to a committee at the Palace of Westminster in 1812, as conceived by a contemporary engraver. Below from left: the killer John Bellingham; Henry Bellingham, with his strong family likeness; Prime Minister Perceval; Roger Perceval



Seventies TV icon joins Bell campaign

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

MARTIN BELL enlisted the support of a 1970s pin-up yesterday to boost his campaign to take Tatton from Neil Hamilton. David Soul, the blond half of the gun-toting television detectives Starsky and Hutch, posed for photographs with Mr Bell at a cocktail party held in Mr Bell's honour.

The two men have been "dinner companions" since they met in Hampstead several years ago when Soul was visiting London. Soul made a one-day trip to Tatton to show his support for Mr Bell's anti-corruption stance, joining a list of celebrities including Sir Alec Guinness, who donated £100 to his campaign, and the playwright Alan Bennett. Soul said: "I'm delighted to come and help Martin."

Mr Bell, a former BBC war correspondent, forecast that Mr Hamilton's 22,000 majority would be dramatically cut.

TATTON

"I think it is going to be extremely close."

Mr Hamilton has been asked by a senior member of his Conservative Association to pledge his resignation if found guilty by Sir Gordon Downey. Yesterday, in an open letter made available by the Bell campaign office, the senior association member said that most people in Tatton would feel able to vote Conservative if Mr Hamilton undertook to resign as MP if the Downey report found him guilty of wrongdoing or dishonourable conduct, or he was he was criticised by the tax authorities.

But Mr Bell said: "What we have from Mr Hamilton instead is a pledge only that he will resign his seat if guilty of bribery or corruption or if the Conservative whip is permanently withdrawn."

"Does this mean that, if elected, he will keep his seat if Downey finds he has acted dishonourably or he is guilty of wrongdoing or that he is criticised by the tax commissioners? I think that the people of Tatton are entitled to the answer to that."

More candidates, page 49

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TIMES 29/4

Tories expect to regain ground lost in English shires

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER the parties' prospects in the general election, the Conservatives expect to do well in the county council polls that also take place on Thursday and Labour and the Liberal Democrats are resigned to losing ground.

The Tories can scarcely do worse than in 1993, when the county councils were last contested. A year after winning the general election they were already deeply unpopular. Many of their traditional supporters stayed at home, and the turnout was 5 per cent below the norm.

They lost control of 13 counties and were left in charge of only one, Buckinghamshire.

In Surrey and Cheshire they formed a coalition with the Liberal Democrats but everywhere else they were forced into opposition, sometimes for the first time.

The Liberal Democrats, who captured Somerset from the Tories and won an overall majority in Cornwall, benefited most. They became the largest party in nine counties and formed coalitions with Labour to control eight others, having a say in the running of 19 of 35 councils. Labour won overall control of seven.

Because this year's county poll is being held on the same

day as the general election, the turnout will be at least double the 35 per cent of 1993. High turnouts in the shires tend to benefit the Conservatives.

Local government reorganisation is also favouring the Tories: since 1993 large urban areas in many counties have been carved out to create all-purpose unitary authorities. This means that these predominantly Labour or Liberal Democrat areas will no longer be part of the county, and power will shift back to the

prepare the area for transfer to the new status from next April. Running local affairs in them will remain with the county until then so councillors for these areas will not stand for election now but will continue to sit on the shire authority for a further year. They will then step down leaving a smaller council with only those elected this time in charge.

Paul White, a Conservative county councillor from Essex who is masterminding the party's local campaign, insists that the mood in the shires is changing. "The counties have always been our heartland," he says. "People were disillusioned and apathetic four years ago, but the general election debate has focused attention on what is at stake. The last election resulted in so many hung councils and that is a terrible way of trying to run things. Alliances between Labour and the Liberal Democrats have resulted in debt and muddle everywhere and after that experience people will want a clear result and return to the fold."

Howard Sykes, who runs the Liberal Democrats' local council organisation from Hebden Bridge, west Yorkshire, expects that up to 10 per cent of those voting for Labour or the Tories in the general election will back his party at local level. "People will vote locally for us with their hearts and nationally pick the party they think will best protect their wallets," he says. "We have been campaigning hard for this local election for over 12 months because we knew when it was coming long before we knew the date of the general election. We are ready, organised and popular."

Steve Bullock, a former leader of Lewisham council in south London, is in charge of the Labour campaign. "Realistically we cannot do as well as we did in 1993 when we won the most seats of any party. We are largely making this a single campaign with the general election, telling people that if they need to have Labour in power locally if they want to put national policy into practice," he says.

Elections for the unitary authorities will create shadow councils whose job will be to

LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNTY COUNCILS

Current control: Labour: Derbyshire, Durham, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Liberal Democrat: Cornwall, Somerset, Conservative: Buckinghamshire.

No overall control: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Devon, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Sussex, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

UNITARY AUTHORITIES

Current control: Labour: Blackburn, Blackpool, Bracknell Forest, Halton, Medway, Nottingham, Peterborough, Plymouth, Reading, Slough, The Wrekin, Thurrock, Warrington.

Liberal Democrat: Newbury, Torbay, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham.

No overall control: Hereford, Southend-on-Sea.



Midget Gems: the parties are arguing over who has best taken up the cause of the manufacturer

Life is sweet for rival candidates when local issue is a little gem

A key marginal is chewing over action on a sales ban, Adrian Lee reports

A HUMBLE sweet named the Midget Gem has demonstrated that no issue is too small for politicians who want to get their teeth into local issues in a key marginal constituency.

In an argument worthy of a *Yes Minister* script, a French ban on the confectionery has resulted in Labour and the Conservatives squabbling over who can claim credit for taking up the cause of the local manufacturer.

The Chambers Candy Co, which employs 23 people in Halesowen, West Midlands, had been selling the little gems to the French for several years. The ban was imposed in February because the product contains gelatine, a beef product. The firm, whose gelatine is actually from Brazil, says that it wrote to Labour and the Conservatives seeking help.

Sylvia Heal, the Labour parliamentary candidate, then wrote to Simon Murphy, Labour MEP for Midlands



Simon Murphy, left, wrote to the EC and says that John Kennedy, right, is a "Johnny come lately"



West, who said he wrote to European Commissioners in March. However, the Conservative candidate John Kennedy has twice visited the company's headquarters in recent weeks, and tasted every flavour of Midget Gem.

Mr Murphy is now accus-

ing the Conservative candi-

date of hijacking the issue for the election. He said: "He is a little late in the day, a Johnny come lately to this."

Mr Kennedy said: "He may have written first, but the point is that he has been ignored. If he wants to say he got involved first, I am happy. This sort of thing

makes politicians look daft." Both reject suggestions that the election campaign has anything to do with their enthusiasm to save the sweet.

The new seat of Halesowen and Rowley Regis is Britain's third most marginal, with a national Conservative majority of 125 over Labour.

Midget Gems are manufactured by at least six companies, retailing at up to £2 a tin, and exported to 40 countries, including Australia and the Far East. The French order is worth about £10,000. Chambers Candy also deals in toffee, butterscotch and coated coffee beans. The French are its second-best customers after the Americans.

As the wrangling continues, the company has taken its own measures. Until the ban is overturned, it is substituting chocolate-covered blueberry raisins for the Midget Gems. If the new line proves successful, politicians' efforts may be for nothing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Manifesto appears in Ulster Scots

The Democratic Unionist Party has published its election manifesto in Ulster Scots, a dialect combining English with smatterings of Scottish Gaelic.

The manifesto, *Democracy - Woot nae Dublin owerance* (Democracy - Not Dublin Rule), declares: "Ulster folks haes a muckle clood hingin abune us aa, like as we hinnae seen afore. The British an Dublin Governments haes cum thegither tae mak a Yin-Cleekit Airlann agin the hairset o the Ulster-British folk." Or, put briefly: there is a Dublin-London conspiracy to create a united Ireland against the wishes of the Unionists.

Mushy peas vote

The Liberal Democrat candidate in Peter Mandelson's constituency has taken out a full-page advertisement in the *Hartlepool Mail* claiming that his opponent is out of touch with tastes in the town. It pictures a bowl of mushy peas, which he allegedly once mistook for avocado mousse.

Bearing up

Thirty life-size teddy bears marched through London to call at the three main party headquarters, campaigning for "the Teddy Bear Alliance". Its candidate, Edward Bear, is standing in Kensington and Chelsea. The campaign for "honey for all" is funded by a TV comedy channel.

ELECTION TRAIL

Conservatives: Malcolm Rifkind, Michael Forsyth, Ian Lang in Scotland; Virginia Bottomley in the Midlands; Peter Lilley in the South; Kenneth Clarke in Yorkshire; Patrick Mayhew in the West.

Labour: John Prescott in Yorkshire and the North West; Gordon Brown in London; Jack Straw in Plymouth and Exeter; Robin Cook in the North West; Harriet Harman in Southampton; Chris Smith in Scotland; David Blunkett in Wales.

Liberal Democrats: Paddy Ashdown in the West Country; Shirley Williams in Devon and Cornwall; Peter Thurnham in Sheffield.

On screen: Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party: ITV 6.55pm, CS 7.55pm, BBC1 9.50pm, C4 10.00pm, BBC2 10.30pm. Election Call with Tony Blair (BBC1 and Radio 4 9.05am).

THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 29 1997

Confid insists will join

Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

WORLD SUMMARY

Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

WORLD SUMMARY

Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

Hong Kong

Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

Belgium setback

Belgium setback

Activists jailed

Activists jailed

Korea suicide

Korea suicide

Wife savers

Wife savers

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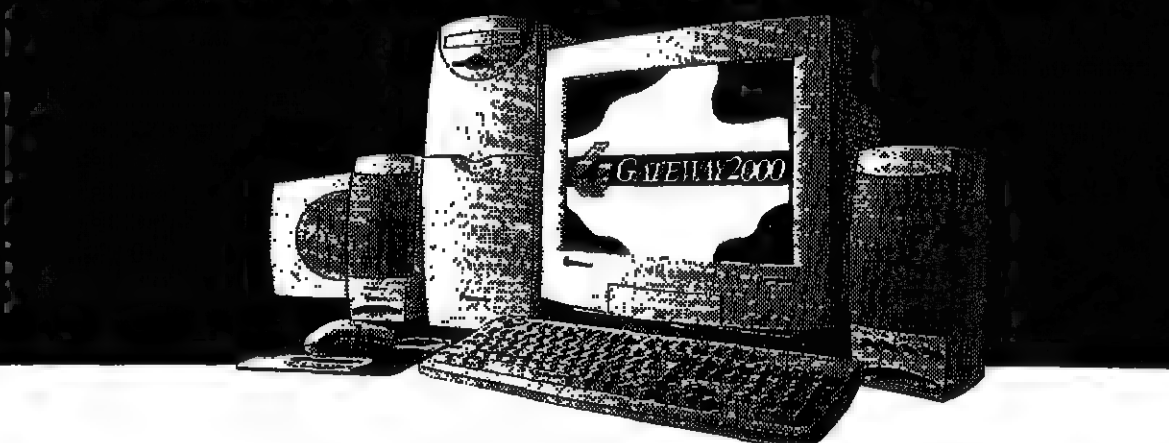
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Confident Kohl insists Britain will join EMU

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, has offered a tentative olive branch to the future British Government and said he was certain that Britain would eventually join economic and monetary union (EMU).

The German leader's optimism about Britain's policy towards Europe after the elections was not matched by high expectations for the Amsterdam summit. If that failed, he told an audience in Bad Homburg, "there will simply have to be a Maastricht II or a Maastricht IV".

The German political class seems to be positioning itself for a change of power in Britain. Officials said yesterday they were expecting a visit to Bonn soon of Robin Cook, now the Shadow Foreign Secretary. Mr Cook was quoted in an interview in *Focus* magazine saying that Anglo-German relations would thrive more in a "sensible, structured and efficient union" than in a loose association of nation states.

Political commentators in Bonn attached more weight to the Chancellor's comments on Britain than on Mr Cook's view of Germany. The German leader shrugged off the Conservative Party's poster

depicting him as a ventriloquist, with Tony Blair as his dummy. "Every country's history has to be treated with respect," he said. Germany was ready and duty bound to allow other countries to take a longer route to an integrated Europe. No doors would be shut in anybody's face. "Europe without Great Britain is a mere torso," he said. "When the euro comes, Britain will one day be part of it."

The Chancellor indicated that he was determined to push ahead with his goal of a politically integrated Europe. 1997 is the key year for Europe. If it is not possible to build the house now, it will not happen in ten or 15 years either. The process of European unification must be and remain irreversible.

In the same speech, delivered under the umbrella of the influential Herbert Quandt Foundation, the Chancellor underlined that Germany would resist any move to delay the introduction of a single European currency beyond the deadline of January 1, 1999. The German leader has been given flanking support by the International Monetary Fund, which also warned at the weekend that delay would derail the whole EMU project.

The reason for this apparent hardening — at a time when Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is still arguing that "convergence dictates the timetable" of EMU — is the need to strengthen the spine of pro-European politicians in the French parliamentary elections.

A report in *Der Spiegel* nonetheless claims that the German Government is preparing to fudge its figures to comply with the key Maastricht criterion for entry to EMU, the ceiling of 3 per cent of gross domestic product for public deficits.

The magazine, trying to explain why the independent forecast for the 1997 deficit is 3.2 per cent (rather than 3.5 per cent as predicted last autumn) argues that the German Treasury is staggering debt repayment in such a way that lower interest is being paid in 1997, the decisive year for EMU entry.



Relatives and friends in Port Arthur's historic church at yesterday's memorial service for the 35 killed a year ago

Australia pays homage to massacre victims

Sydney: Thousands marked the first anniversary of the Port Arthur massacre yesterday with a minute's silence throughout Australia and candle-lit ceremonies (Roger Maynard writes). Flags were flown at half mast to pay tribute to the 35 people killed in the country's worst civilian shooting, when Martin Bryant ran amok with a semi-automatic rifle.

Several hundred relatives and friends of the victims attended a memorial service at the massacre site. Neil Noye, the Mayor, said: "What happened is beyond our understanding." Among the mourners was Walter Mikac, whose wife and two daughters were shot dead by Bryant. He wrote on a wreath to his six-year-old daughter, Alannah: "To my darling Lani,

I can still hear your voice and smell your hair." Hours earlier, it emerged that Bryant, 28, who is serving a life sentence in Risdon top security prison in Hobart, had tried to commit suicide for the third time. The Australian Government said 400,000 firearms had been handed over after the massacre, with compensation of nearly £100 million paid to gun owners.

Maoris on warpath over the Spice Girls

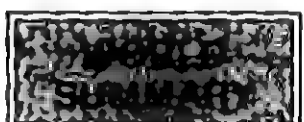
FROM PATRICK SMELLEE IN WELLINGTON

FOR the Spice Girls it was just a bit of fun. But for the guardians of Maori culture, their attempt at the best-known Maori haka (war dance) in a holiday resort on Bali was offensive.

Egged on by two New Zealanders among a hundred fans and journalists at a special promotion in the Indonesian resort at the weekend, the group performed the *Ku Maia*, a haka made famous by the All Blacks.

"It's a bloody disgrace," said Willie Jackson, an Auckland haka expert who manages a local answer to the Spice Girls called Moana and the Maori Hunters. "The Spice Girls are on dangerous ground," he added.

Sir Timoti Karetu, New Zealand's haka expert, was also not amused by "girlie pop stars" performing a dance normally reserved for men. However Bart Coles, their manager, countered: "The girls absolutely did not mean to mock Maori culture."



Journalists 'damaging' Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Businessmen here yesterday condemned the foreign press for "biased" reporting during the run-up to the handover to China, and blamed international journalists in the territory for causing hotel, tourist and retail businesses to decline badly (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

At the first meeting of Advance Hong Kong, attended by about 100 people, European and Japanese journalists were accused of suggesting that the colony was "doomed".

Belgium setback

Mons: The investigation into a serial killer who has cut up the bodies of up to five women suffered a setback when a Belgian court ruled there was insufficient evidence to keep a suspect in jail. But an appeal by the prosecutor means that the man, 33, will stay in jail for two more weeks. The discovery of a head led to the identification of one victim as Nathalie Godart, a former girlfriend. (AP)

Activists jailed

Jakarta: Budiman Sudjatmiko, 27, the leader of the left-wing Indonesian People's Democratic Party and eight party associates were convicted of subversion and jailed for between 18 months and 13 years. They pledged to continue fighting for democracy from their cells, and called for a boycott of the general election called for May 29.

Korea suicide

Seoul: A former banker, Park Suk Tae, 59, questioned by a parliamentary committee over a bribery scandal that rocked the Government, was found hanged at his home, police said. The scandal centres on the collapse of Hanbo Steel Industry, South Korea's second largest steelmaker. (AP)

Wife savers

Dubai: Two wives of a Saudi man suffering from renal disease competed to donate a kidney to save their husband. The donor was chosen by drawing lots, said a Saudi newspaper. (Reuters)

French Socialist pact 'will hit euro'

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Socialist leader, will today seek an electoral pact with the Communist Party, despite warnings that it could prevent France from joining Europe's single currency.

At a meeting today, M. Jospin will tell Robert Hue, his Communist counterpart, that he would accept Communist ministers in his government if he were to win next month's parliamentary elections. The move has added a further dimension to French divisions over Europe.

M. Jospin has paved the way for today's meeting by promising Keynesian policies that would make it difficult for France to meet the criteria for entry into the single currency. He says he is in favour of the euro, but only if he is able to implement measures that would raise the public deficit above the 3 per cent limit imposed on countries wanting to enter economic and monetary union.

His stance has encouraged his left-wing allies but angered Socialists loyal to the late President Mitterrand, who was one of the architects of the 1992 Maastricht treaty.

M. Jospin's critics say he could not hope to persuade Germany to loosen the criteria for monetary union, leaving his government with a difficult choice. Either it would have to ignore its pledge to cut the working week, reduce salaries and create 700,000 jobs for young people, or it would have to abandon the single currency.

The Socialist leader believes, however, that he can tap into the Euroscepticism that has been fuelled by successive austerity budgets designed to cut the French deficit. On Sunday, he said: "This country could not stand it, economically and socially, if it were necessary to impose more austerity to fulfil the Maastricht criteria."

Electoral mathematics have added to his doubts on Maastricht. Although the Left stands to win almost as many as many votes as the ruling parties of the Centre-Right, it will still fall short of a majority in the National Assembly, according to two opinion polls published yesterday.

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'Republic of Texas' goes to war

By GILES WHITTELL

ARMED Texan separatists were holed up in a remote mountain stronghold 75 miles north of the Mexican border yesterday, surrounded by more than 100 police.

The homemade army of a group calling itself the Republic of Texas released two hostages late on Sunday but remained "at war" with state and federal agents, demanding a referendum on Texan independence.

"We are at war with the United Nations and all foreign entities," Richard McLaren, self-styled ambassador of the Republic of Texas, told *The New York Times*. "We are not at war with the American people, but we are at war with the federal agencies which have no jurisdiction here."

The latest clash between the US establishment and the volatile paramilitary fringe began with a dawn raid on neighbours Joe and Margaret Rowe who had reportedly helped local police to arrest a separatist on weapons charges. The Rowes were freed in exchange for Robert Scheidt, the jailed separatist, after Mr Rowe was wounded when shots were fired.

Mr McLaren, an amateur historian who cultivates a wild-haired "mad professor" look, claims that Texas was illegally annexed in 1845 after nine years as an independent republic. He insists that his tiny organisation, based in a shack in the Davis Mountains 220 miles southeast of El Paso, is the state's legitimate government.

For the separatists nothing less than the fate of Texas is at stake. As far as their neighbours are concerned, however, they are nuisances who have inflated a historical anomaly into a dangerous game of make-believe.

Pentagon to enforce ban on adultery in military

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon is introducing a strict code of morality to America's armed services, cracking down on adultery and other crimes of the heart in the wake of numerous embarrassing sex scandals.

American defence chiefs, who have had to deal with continuing allegations of rape at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and the enduring legacy of Tailhook, when female pilots were sexually harassed at a Las Vegas fighter crew convention in 1991, are attempting to introduce a greater level of moral discipline in the forces.

An increasing number of service personnel are facing charges for love affairs that in civilian life would never be deemed criminal. In the most celebrated case, Lieutenant Colonel Karen Tew, 41, of the US Air Force, was tried earlier this year and found guilty of committing adultery with an enlisted man. Barely a year short of retirement, she was dismissed, losing her pension and all accrued benefits.

"She traded the honour of wearing the military uniform for lust," said the court martial prosecutor. "And she traded her ability to act as an effective leader in a position of authority for sexual intercourse." Five days later Colonel Tew committed suicide.

In the air force, the number tried for adultery has more than quadrupled in the past decade — from 16 in 1987 to 67 last year. The majority have been found guilty and punished. Cases often include charges of sodomy if there is a suggestion of oral sex, and fraternisation if the romance involves an officer and an enlisted person.

Although the acts have been forbidden under America's Uniform Code of Military Justice for more than 200 years, the Pentagon is now

said to be pursuing charges with an unprecedented zeal. Next month Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, America's first female bomber pilot, will be tried for adultery at Minot base in North Dakota. She had an affair with a civilian who has stated under oath that he lied to her, claiming to be legally separated from his wife. She is also charged with fraternisation for having sex with an unmarried enlisted man who has been granted immunity to testify. "The Air Force is going back to the Dark Ages," said Frank Spinner, the retired lieutenant-colonel defending her.

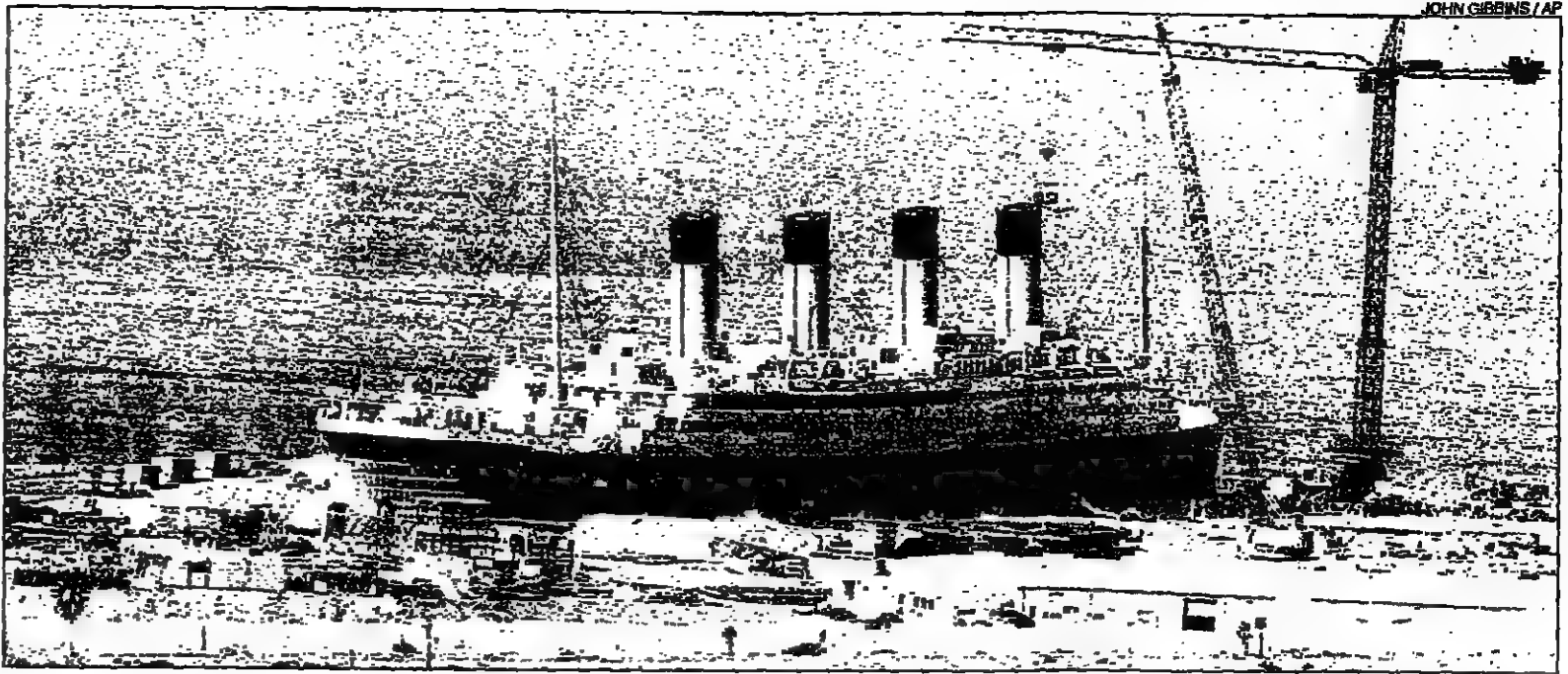
Captain Byron James, a Pentagon official, said yesterday that commanders usually tried to end improper relationships without permanent harm to careers and rarely was anyone tried solely for adultery. "But disobeying a lawful order has wide-ranging ramifications on a military unit," he said. "An individual can't pick and choose which orders to follow."

British code: The British Army has a strict "military ethos" covering all types of sexual and social behaviour (Michael Evans writes). Adultery is considered likely to prejudice the position of an individual and may bring the Army into disrepute.

Under discipline and standards guidelines currently under review, adultery "within the military community" is regarded as potentially the most serious form of social misconduct.

Affairs between officers and non-commissioned officers are judged to be unacceptable because of the risk of undermining the Army's carefully defined hierarchical structure.

Under the review, accepted standards on adultery are likely to be brought more into line with civilian life.



A 775ft model of Titanic on the Mexican Pacific coast, which James Cameron is using to film his action blockbuster turned romance

Hollywood has sinking feeling over \$200m epic

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

IN THE spring of 1912 the Titanic sank in a disaster matched only by the ship's epic scale and frightening cost. Eighty-five years on, a film attempting to re-create that fateful night is months behind schedule, up to \$90 million (£55 million) over budget and battling to avoid a similar fate.

With a budget now put at \$200 million, *Titanic*, starring Kate Winslet, the British actress, as a Philadelphia heiress, is the most expensive film in history and is taking so long to complete that its original release date is expected to be pushed back from July 4 until late summer.

The film, jointly financed by Paramount Pictures and 20th Century Fox, was shot mainly on a 775ft replica of the doomed liner on the Pacific coast in northern Mexico, and was conceived by its backers as an action blockbuster on the scale of last year's *Independence Day*. Instead James Cameron, the director, has reportedly set his heart on a sweeping

love story in the tradition of *Dr Zhivago*, raising the stakes on a tense project and fuelling rumours that the postponement of its release may have been deliberate.

The two studios were expecting an out-and-out thriller, one industry source told *Daily Variety*. "What they got was a romance. Cameron is very proud of this film. For Oscar consideration he might want to push the release as far as he can towards the end of the year."

Reports of the *Titanic* rescheduling have sent a ripple effect through other studios' plans for the summer as executives scramble to book opening weekends for their films in a season that promises to be Hollywood's most expensive ever: at least 15 releases with total budgets each ballooning over \$100 million are due out over the next ten weeks.

"There's never been a marketplace in the history of the movie business to support all these big movies," Peter Chernin of News Corporation, 20th

Century Fox's owner, told *The New York Times*. "Every studio is terrified." One industry analyst said simply: "There's going to be blood on the floor."

Sebastian Silva, the film's first assistant director, said of a production apparently driven by Mr Cameron's perfectionism and short temper: "The fault of the movie was its sheer size. Sometimes I'd find some of the 1,000 extras sleeping under the ship."

Ms Winslet, who endured the most punishing hours of the entire cast, admitted to the *Los Angeles Times*: "It was hard to concentrate when [Mr Cameron] was losing it and shouting and screaming." She added: "You'd have to pay me a lot of money to work with Jim again", later apologising for the remark.

Titanic will have to break most box office records to be considered a success. *Raise the Titanic*, made by Lord Grade in 1980, was a box office disaster, costing \$40 million and taking just \$7 million.



Winslet went through a punishing schedule

Chrétien seeks millennium mandate in snap Canada poll

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

JEAN CHRÉTIEN, the Canadian Prime Minister, confident of victory in the snap election he has called for June, yesterday headed home to his St Maurice constituency in Quebec, where a crowd of 500 cheered and nominated him.

"The time has come to offer real choice about what kind of society we want for the 21st century," he said as he launched his campaign.

The ruling Liberals appear comfortable enough, with showings of 45 per cent of the vote in several opinion polls — 25 points ahead of their nearest rivals.

The election, set for June 2, comes 17 months after 42 months after the last, in 1993. Mr Chrétien's critics are saying that he has no real reason

to go to the people except to be re-elected before prospects worsen in the autumn. The 296-member House of Commons has been expanded to 301 seats and the campaign reduced from 47 days to 36.

The once-mighty Conservatives, the right-wing western-based Reform Party, the left-wing New Democrats and the separatist, Quebec-based Bloc Québécois are all grouped at between 10 and 20 per cent in the polls.

Gilles Duceppe, the separatist leader who bears the title of Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, launched his campaign in Montreal as a dry run for the next referendum on Quebec separation. The Bloc hopes to hold its 50 seats. Jean Charest, the Tory leader,

launched a high-profile campaign to return his party to former glory. In the last election it lost power and all but two of its 174 seats. Mr Charest believes it has finally put the past behind it and promises to protect health, education and social programmes and give everyone a 10 per cent income tax cut.

Unemployment, which has stubbornly stayed above 9 per cent for 72 consecutive months, remains the Liberals' Achilles' heel. Their main strength is the booming economy. They cut the federal deficit by two thirds from \$C42 billion (£18.3 billion) to \$C13 billion a year, the lowest of any major industrial country. Inflation is, at 2 per cent, among the lowest in the world.

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MY SISTER THE JUNKIE

When I last saw my sister two years ago, it was at my wedding. She was wearing black — black PVC trousers, a black cropped top and a black knee-length leather coat. Not long after the festivities started, she came over to me. "Just popping out to a drinks party," she said. "Be back soon." OK, I said. I wasn't going to point out the pathetically obvious: that I knew she was going to score heroin.

But then, maybe Tess thought I would swallow anything. After all, for three years I had lived with her without realising that she was a junkie. We shared a small, two-bedroom flat in Notting Hill, exposed to each other's most private domestic routines. I cramped her style (nocturnal good-time girl) and she cramped mine (City square); but we made light of it and tried to stay out of each other's hair. It appealed to me that I was getting to know my glamorous sister, whose years at boarding school — a convent which, with earnest wrong-headedness, prepared its girls for London society — had separated us.

Then I moved out and my younger brother Jack, a lawyer, moved in. After he found a bottle of methadone on top

enraged and tearful. I felt defrauded. She had lied to me for years without a qualm, and the intimacies we had shared for all that time seemed little more than a joke at my expense. She had taken fraternal gifts innocently proffered — loyalty, co-operation, money — and corrupted them. She had subverted the peculiar fidelity that underpins sibling love.

Look in a bookshop and you won't find books that address these feelings. Go to an FA (Families Anonymous) meeting and you will meet junkies' parents and partners, but rarely their brothers and sisters. Perhaps because there is no outlet for their concerns, siblings become adept at containing the addict's impact on their lives.

But perhaps there is a deeper, more troubling reason for one's ability to cope, connected with the rough-and-ready nature of sibling love. Brothers and sisters do not choose one another, or voluntarily spend their childhood years together. Their relations are, however affectionate, founded on co-operation and territorial respect. Good fences make good siblings. Thus Jack and I, Tess's flamboyant and peers, failed to see what was in front of our noses.

Tess relapsed after rehab and the family adopted a "tough love" strategy. But after suspending normal relations for two years, my parents began to crack. My mother fell victim to anguished retrospection and dreadful imaginings; my father twice suffered cardiac fibrillations. On top of everything else, each became anxious about the other. And so last Christmas, when Tess falsely asserted — yet again — that she was clean,

Addiction pervasively glamorised in *Trainspotting*

of the television set, Tess admitted that she had dabbled in heroin but said she was now clean. Dabbling? Methadone? She gave us an explanation that I cannot distinguish from the excuses, cop-outs and likely stories I have heard since. We believed it.

We didn't tell our parents. Children don't, unless it's absolutely necessary. Like sex and rock 'n' roll, drugs are a generational vice and naturally subject to a youthful conspiracy of silence. Thus my friends Abigail and Louise have for five years tried to manage their eldest sister's heroin addiction, and still they have not informed their parents. Optimistically, they are trying to exploit their sorority and twentysomethingness in an effort to persuade her to come clean.

They are wasting their time. Jack and I tried a version of this and it didn't work. That Christmas, at my parents' house, Tess was so stupefied by the Temazepam she had swallowed as a nightcap that, by the following afternoon, she still hadn't woken up. She had to be dragged from her bed and manhandled on to her train to London. A short while later, Jack again found methadone in the flat.

We told our parents what we knew. Soon afterwards, at a special family gathering, my sister admitted to us that she was addicted to heroin, and had been for the previous seven years. In a flash, it was clear that Tess's history exactly resembled the personal and professional shambles characterised by junkies: little capacity for work, a morbid liking for sleep, skinniness, colds and dreadful nightmares when she went on family summer holidays, and a mysterious elusiveness, in conversation and in person.

Now I understood the savvy, inner-city signals that her chic, trashy look gave out. Now I understood why she and her boyfriend, no connoisseurs of avant-garde prose, owned copies of William Burroughs's *The Naked Lunch*; why she so identified with Billie Holiday; and why she thought that Patti Smith was beautiful. Adulation, even imitation, of the famously stoned is a typical feature of junkiedom.

Suddenly and irreversibly, the world of heroin was mine to inhabit: a realm as personal as a nightmare — that you wake up from it — was absent.

Detox in London followed the family meeting; rehab was a six-week stint at a clinic in the country. Family members took turns to visit Tess and participate in group therapy. At my session, I found myself surprisingly

they invited her home. But I decided that, for the first time, I would not go home for Christmas. Someone had to hold the line, for Tess's sake; besides, I could not face the prospect of a fraudulent holiday.

At a post-Christmas FA meeting, it became clear that the holidays of virtually everyone there had been spoilt. But whereas parents are used to putting their children's needs before their own, siblings are not. Like plants struggling beneath evergreens, we are denied the familial sunlight by the addict's presence — and we resent it. "He's not invited to my daughter's christening," a colleague said of his smackhead twin. "I've had enough."

Jack did go home — to support our parents, not Tess. "I don't care whether she's a junkie for the rest of her life," he said, "just so long as she doesn't hurt Mother and Father."

"But that means you're giving up on her," I objected.

Jack said, chillingly: "Taking drugs makes her happy — and unless she's happy, Mother won't be."

My brother has a point. The most distressing thing of all has not been Tess's plight, but witnessing my parents' destruction.

But the news is not all bad. Brothers and sisters can play a positive part, helping their parents to come to terms with the agonies they suffer. The distance that siblings keep from each other, and the elastic love that nevertheless connects them, enables "clean" children to enact "tough love". And rightly or wrongly, my brotherly love does not allow me to write Tess off. I still love her; I especially love the person she once was. I still long for her clean essence to emerge once the drug-induced fakeries have been stripped away. But to remove these is, in Tess's case, to strip away that relentless fiction, her adult life. And this is what is frightening, for us and her.

So this is the position of complicity we have reached. My junkie sister concocts fictions that my parents — and, for all I know, she herself — buy into; my brother goes with the flow for my parents' sake; and I'm left out on a limb. This is not a promising situation. In fact, it is desperately sad.

If I could lovingly release our family from Tess, I would. It would be the healthiest thing for her, for me and Jack, and for my parents. But I cannot; so we are still all tied to her in knots that are as hard to unravel as those that bind Tess to her dark, true sibling.

● This article first appeared in *Vogue*. All the names have been changed

'I still love the person my sister once was'



When heroin steals a beloved brother or sister, the dark shadow over family life eclipses siblings, too

Self-help brings fresh hope

THE MOTHER'S STORY

PARENTS are often the last to know that their son or daughter has a serious drug problem. Mary Smith discovered that her son, Christian, was a heroin addict when the police banged on her door to tell her he had turned to crime to pay for his addiction.

"I was devastated. I didn't have a clue," she recalls. But she was not alone. Throughout the early 1990s, parents in Knowle West, a south Bristol council estate, were discovering that a generation of the area's youth had been "kidnapped" by heroin.

But when Mrs Smith went in search of help for her son, there was none available.

"There were lots of other mothers in my position," she says, "so we decided to do something about it. We invited the people that matter to a public meeting and the mothers told their story."

Heart-wrenching accounts of children lost to the needle, of young lives wasted and of kind and caring offspring turned into thieving, lying monsters, had a dramatic effect.

Four months later, Mrs Smith and several other mothers of addicts formed Kwads (Knowle West Against Drugs), a mother-led support group. Experts on tap not on top. They meet every week to share information and give each other support. Periodically they hold public meetings, where parents can learn more about the drugs threat facing their children.

But their most radical work is done in local schools. "We don't go in as teachers or counsellors," says Mrs Smith, now Kwads' chairperson. "We go in as what we are: the parents of heroin addicts. We tell the truth about our personal lives and it is said from the heart." They started with the 14- to 16-year-olds but found their greatest impact was in primary schools.

The project now has an office and three full-time staff. Next month it will host a national conference for the parents of addicts.

Yet the success of Kwads has not ended Mrs Smith's personal agony with Christian, now 23. "He is in a drugs programme, but every so often he has a breakout. I wouldn't be telling the truth if I said he was well. I have another child, Emily. I brought them up both the

same way and she went to university and he became an addict. I still don't know why that happened."

Like Mrs Smith before her shocking introduction into the world of drugs, most parents' fear for their children is sharpened by ignorance.

"Like most activities that put the fear of God into parents, the casualty rate is very low," says Harry Shapiro, of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependency. "For those who dabble, there are no guarantees, but the truth is they are unlikely to end up in shadow on television or stretched out on a mortuary slab."

There are tell-tale signs of drug use — the cardboard filter of a cannabis joint or a butane canister in the room of somebody who doesn't smoke. But the important thing is for parents to familiarise themselves with the drugs scene, and the earlier the better.

Experts recommend that from the age of four, children should be taught that drug misuse is harmful. From seven they should know the dangers of discarded syringes and needles and be introduced to the law on the use of drugs. From 11, they should be taught about categories of drugs, including stimulants and hallucinogens, and terms such as addiction, overdose and adulteration. From 14, they should know about drugs' legal status, effect and appearance and danger of mixing drugs.

THE Government's strategy, Tackling Drugs Together has published *A Parents' Guide to Drugs and Solvents*, which explains 14 drugs. It encourages parents to talk to their children about drugs and advises: "Don't bully your children; don't lecture — remember how it felt to be lectured at; don't preach — being holier than thou does not help a child; don't try to scare your children with shock horror stories. It doesn't work."

The message a child needs to hear and believe from a parent is, says the booklet: "I may not like what you have done, but I still love you."

JULIAN KOSSOFF

● The author is Assistant News Editor, *Time Out* magazine

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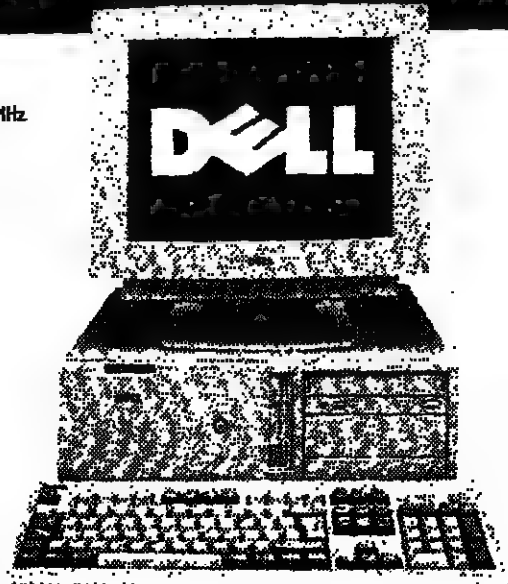
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It's all a question of leadership

Michael Portillo accuses Blair of forfeiting the people's trust

Tony Blair began the election campaign by asking the public to trust him. It was an extraordinary appeal, based on the admission that Britain would have been wrong to trust him at any time in the past.

Mr Blair has learnt a lesson from four successive election defeats. He knows that he cannot win power by following his instincts. The people have rejected them, though he does not understand why. In his desperation for power he seeks direction elsewhere: from focus groups, from the media, from Europe. These are not solid foundations on which to build a government. No wonder Labour had such an uncomfortable fortnight of confusion and contradiction at the start of the campaign.

Then, in desperation, they switched tactics to a campaign of lies and smears which reached its grubby extreme last week when Tony Blair the man who once vowed to "think the unthinkable" about welfare, the man who pleaded piously to be trusted — looked straight into the television cameras and lied to the British people about the Government's pension reforms.

Conservatives knew he was lying. The media knew he was lying — or "peddling falsehoods" as *The Times* more delicately described it. Without doubt he knew he was lying. But scaring the vulnerable with cold-blooded lies is seen as fair by new Labour. It is just the latest demonstration that Labour is prepared to say and do anything for power.

It is no wonder that over the past few weeks in dozens of constituencies around the country I have detected little enthusiasm for new Labour. The mood is one of uncertainty, doubt and confusion. Mr Blair has not won the people's trust. As I have campaigned I have met few people who think that things would actually improve under Labour. But I have met many who think just what Mr Blair wishes them to think: just what the entire cynical exercise of fashioning new Labour out of old Labour was meant to make people believe: that it wouldn't make much difference.

Others understand all too well that a Labour government would make things worse, harm our economy and weaken our country. But they are considering voting Labour anyway because they think the Tories would benefit from a spell in opposition, and that five years on we could be returned, rejuvenated and refreshed, to sort out the mess. I have a simple message to those people: you are wrong. In government the Conservative Party has faced the challenges needed to change Britain for the better. And as we demonstrate in our manifesto, we continue to be the party of ideas, ready to take on the challenges of the future. In opposition, we could only be spectators as Mr Blair reversed the progress we have made in the past 18 years.

undermined our economic strength, gave up British sovereignty to Europe and broke up the United Kingdom.

People should be in no doubt that when Mr Blair says "new Britain" he means it. His manifesto contains a series of proposals to change the constitution which would be hard to reverse. He describes these plans as "the biggest programme of change to democracy ever proposed by a political party". Yet they are not promoted among his five publicised pledges. They do not number among his ten vows — his self-styled "contract with Britain". It is hard to recall his even mentioning them in his many interviews, speeches and press conferences during this campaign. But, if elected, he would claim a mandate to vandalise our constitution, and quickly set about doing so.

Mr Blair's determination to tear up our constitution is born of his distaste for the traditions and institutions of a Britain that has rejected his natural instincts. He confines these policies to the margins of his rhetoric because they fail the only test he applies to what he says: Is it popular?

For Tony Blair's highest aspiration is merely to echo what is popular. He is a follower not a leader. That is why he tries to be all things to all men. That is why he says different things to different audiences. That is why, in this campaign, he has twisted and turned at the simplest problem of what he believes and of what he plans to do to Britain.

Sunday brought the starkest and most ominous example of Mr Blair's approach. In his appeal to middle Britain he places his party "in the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority", and claims to have put behind him everything we used to associate with the Labour Party. Last weekend, trying to carry favour with the Left's old guard at *The Observer*, he said: "I am of the Centre-Left and I want the Left to be part of this project. I want the Left to realise that if we win this election, we will have done so without ceding any ground that cannot be recovered." The man who bases his appeal for Britain's trust on the claim that Labour is truly "new", now admits that every change in his party can, and by implication will, be reversed.

The greatest danger of new Labour in power is not that it would suddenly be overrun by a re-emerging hard-core Left, but that in government it would be exactly as it is in opposition: rootless and vacillating, seeking only to appease, never to lead. We would face the consequences almost at once: in six weeks' time when critical decisions about our sovereignty are negotiated at the Amsterdam summit, and in 12 weeks' time in Labour's promised emergency tax-raising Budget.

Many in the media have already written Mr Blair into Downing Street. He certainly takes victory for granted. But the British people have not spoken yet. And when they do they will wipe the smile from Mr Blair's face.



A lifeline for floaters

The millions who are still indecisive have my sympathy. I was once among them

I isn't in the bag, you know: don't be fooled. Never mind all that stuff predicting Labour Cabinets and Tory bloodletting. In this trade, we like to pretend we know. But we don't.

Far from the hothouse of political interest, millions are still indecisive. I do not mean those shy, legendary creatures, the "secret Tory voters" who lie to pollsters while intending to vote Conservative all the time. I mean the real floaters, still rubbing their heads in honest perplexity. Thursday is too soon for these humble Hamlets: some will not finally decide until the pencil is in their hand, some will come out of the booth still unhappy, saying, as one neighbour did last time, "Oh dear, I really don't know if I've done the right thing". Weeks later she still didn't: it takes more than the swearing-in of a new government to stop some people floating.

Both main parties know from their canvassing that indecision is rife. This is why Tony Blair strives modestly to avoid the unconditional future tense, why John Major uses it constantly, and why both sides long to pelt Edwina Currie with duff eggs. Airily conceding victory before the ballot is not modesty but a wilful misunderstanding of the electorate. A German radio journalist told his listeners: "These people could do anything, there is no logic."

It is time to throw a lifeline of sympathy to floating voters. I do not mean absenteeism: I take the schoolmarm line that their names should be posted up in their neighbourhoods after each election so that everybody knows the lazy human reality behind the phrase "low turnout". Nor am I bothered about those who write "Bastards!" across the names of all the candidates, or lunatics who cover the paper with tiny intricate allegations in green ink that the Pope is in league with Martians. Just pity the real floaters, who value the vote but can't decide what to do with it.

I was a floater once — in 1979 — and it was miserable. Even left-liberals were fed up with the incompetence of the Callaghan administration (remember differentials, demarcation, comparability, British Leyland?). But the Heath Government was also horribly fresh in the memory. The mood of the moment was frustration at the chaos of inadequate majorities: cliffhanger votes, sick MPs brought

in on stretchers, the Lib-Lab pact, no decisiveness or dignity anywhere. That mood led me, at the last minute, to the despicable floater course of voting with the poll swing. If other people were voting Tory, so would I, so minimising the chance of another hung Parliament. A friend, following the same emotional path through that election, agreed. "After all," she said, "even if they're bastards to the poor, Tories are great business people, aren't they? They'll make the country rich, then we can afford social democracy."

It was that simple, that stupid, that human. Our marginal Tory won. Reader, I elected him. I personally helped to kick-start the Conservative years. But we feckless single girls never dreamt that our deed would begin an aeon of one-party rule, stretching into our own children's teenage years.

Today's floating voters have it even harder, although once again their dilemma is less likely to be about ideology than about effectiveness. At least in 1979 everybody of voting age could remember the failures of two kinds of government and choose between two sets of experienced ministers. Now it is a contest of old and new, habit and mystery, and all the more irrational for that. Not knowing which shore to swim for, the floaters are buffeted by powerful emotional eddies.

A strong instinct tells them — particularly Mrs Floater — that you should always keep tight hold of Nurse, for fear of finding something worse. When decent John Major says "Wake up to the danger!", she is receptive. Times have been hard, the children's school is far from perfect, the hospital is a worry, and the articles she reads about the criminal underworld are reinforced by the shuttered unkempt look of city streets when she ventures from her safe suburb. Nice Mr Major says that things get worse under Labour governments; considering how bad they are even after 18 years

without one, this is pretty alarming. Logic does not come into it, for real floaters.

Mr Floater, meanwhile, is less pessimistic: business has started to look up and he is almost convinced by the argument that delicate shoots of recovery would be crushed by the insensitive Labour boot. Almost, but not quite. He remembers the VAT rises, the exchange-rate mechanism debacle, the quadrupling of his business rate and how near he is to negative equity. Two of his old friends are bankrupt, and he doesn't think it is their fault. He resents this having happened during a time when, even without illegality, former government ministers seem to do so well for themselves financially.

Another current pulls the floaters towards new Labour. Keeping tight hold of Nurse is cosy, but sometimes when they look up into the faces of Nurse and the sneer of Dr Mawhinney, the smugness of Michael Howard or even the familiar sheeplike earnestness of the Prime Minister, they suddenly want to snatch their hands away. Dear God, not again! The Tories in 1997 are the depressing party, the scribbled-over, dog-eared, tearstained exercise book of a party. Must we really go back to those crabbed pages?

The floater feels a surge of certainty: it is time for a fresh sheet, a new book, a clean new hope. Europe is not a problem: the floater is not bothered about the single currency or a federal superstate, thanks to an inner conviction that it won't happen anyway because Europeans will mess it up.

But the whole family really liked Tony Blair's party political broadcast, the one with the tennis and the children and the bright kitchen and the man's keen-eyed, sincere Christian urge to put the nation in a hot bath and give it a good scrub. The Floater family said that and remembered John Major's maudlin water-colour hymns to his Brixton roots and

his father's honest business failure, his dank aura of evening-classes, Tizer, county cricket and old maids on bicycles. They suspect that a new Labour government on Friday would give them the same surge of glee they felt when they chucked out the chintz and gave the nasty old wedding-present china to the charity shop.

But floaters are not stupid: they know that any new sheet will soon be covered in tears and blots and mistakes. Moreover, they are British and have an innate need to cherish frayed old objects. The Conservative Party are well, sort of heritage now, aren't they? We've grown accustomed to their faces. Labour might harbour strange germs. Might it not be better to stick by the greasy antimacassar we know, and Granny Thatcher's chipped old gravy-boat?

So the floaters watch the campaign, unhappy and restless. They know it is up to them what happens next, but can't decide. Once, their problem might have been solved in a simple human way by esteem for a particular local candidate, but these days local candidates are almost invisible against the harsh arc-lights of the media campaign. So in the end, it will be a small thing that sways them: perhaps even on the journey to the polling station. In the countryside, it might be a row of brutal Tory posters marching along a roadside prairie, some big landowner's defiant abuse of the power of property to oust the brave, wrinkled, red and orange patches in the windows of the cottages. In the city it might be an equally brutal Marx-red sticker shouting "SMASH THE TORIES!" This makes the floater stiffen in protest, his Cold War burnions twinge, and swing to the right.

Then comes a 1960s song on the radio, a shower of rain after drought, or the voices of children at a school Maypole singing the song about the Peasants' Revolt: "Labour and spin for fellowship, I say, Labour and spin for the love of one another, in the light that is coming in the morning." The floater snuffles, and swings left again. Then something else happens. The floater is so confused by now that it might just be a wink from a pretty student outside the polling station.

Why else do you think that by ancient electoral folk-wisdom, all the parties sit smiling by the hall door, in rosettes? They know that it's all to play for, even then.

Don't be duped by the polls

Woodrow Wyatt argues that Major can still pull it off

I have never been a fan of opinion polls. On May 28, 1945, Gallup showed a Labour lead of 16 per cent, followed by 9 per cent on June 18 and 6 per cent on July 4. Polling day was July 5. The outcome was a Labour lead of 20.4 per cent. There was some speculation that it was the late-counted Service vote that made the difference. Not really. More than half the servicemen entitled to vote didn't. Among the 1,700,000 who did, there was a Labour majority, but not by nearly enough to explain why the final Gallup poll was so wrong. Incidentally, even in that great landslide Labour achieved only 48.3 per cent of the votes.

In the 1992 election, polls showed a clear Labour victory. Subsequently, when people were asked how they had voted, the majority said Labour. This was due to many voters saying on the way in that they were Labour, putting a cross against the Conservatives and announcing on the way out they had voted Labour. Hence the final leadings of Peter Snow with his swingometer, proving from the exit polls that Labour was a certainty, and his gloom when they lost. This Thursday's is the hardest election to read in my lifetime.

In 1970, the polls predicted defeat for Ted Heath up to the end, but two things happened. One was a month with an unexpectedly adverse balance of payments, then thought to be the test of economic success. The other was Harold Wilson leaning out of a window inviting people below to tea with him at No 10 after the election. The element of hubris in Mr Blair has fed upon itself during the campaign. For days it has been said that a removal van is loading up his belongings outside his Islington house. If so, what is its destination? Labour has a rule: all those with Shadow portfolios must initially be given the portfolio itself in a Labour government. Now we hear that unregenerate old guard-members of the Shadow Cabinet will be relegated to minor offices.

Millions of old-fashioned socialists resent the idea that socialism is the vice new Labour dare not name. Those thus affronted also tend to have deep patriotic feelings which inspire detestation of the ever more encroaching powers of Brussels. They are aware that acting tough with dissenters in the run-up to the election is a doddle compared to standing up to bullying by Herr Kohl and his satraps. Mr Blair did not even dare stand up to Mr Major in a one-to-one television debate. Mr Major has proved his mettle by gaining opt-outs on the single currency and the social chapter which Mr Blair and the Labour leaders opposed in the Maastricht debate in 1992. But for Mr Major, Mr Blair, if he were to win, would have no negotiating position at the Amsterdam Euro-summit in June. Mr Blair's approach to the EU is accommodatively wet in contrast to Major's dogged determination to be isolated until he gets his way.

My instinct is that many who once were the solid base of the genuinely socialist Labour Party will abstain or even vote for Major. They will not toy with Paddy Ashdown, who is regarded as pointless. For those former Tory voters who tell the pollsters they have switched to Mr Blair, there is a new worry. After being charmed by the promise that their personal income tax rates would not be increased, they are beginning to realise there are many ways to skin a cat. Why otherwise, after pledging to stick to Tory spending plans for at least two years, has Gordon Brown now said he will hold an emergency Budget if he is Chancellor on May 22? It is not just for the legalised theft of the windfall tax, which will depreciate the value of millions of shareholdings in the affected companies and in the pension funds that have invested in them. It is a clear signal of new taxes to pay for their few firm promises, namely to try to decrease youth unemployment by 250,000 with an unworkable scheme, and to improve the NHS, which Mr Blair ludicrously claims has been wrecked by the Tories.

There is another point missed. Last Sunday on television Mr Blair declared that the unemployment figures are cooked by the Government, and are 529,000 higher than stated. So he presumably would put the missing 529,000 on unemployment benefit — a massive undertaking costing several billions. Along with the emergency Budget, there would inevitably be rises in interest and mortgage rates, which would deliver a punch in the stomach to the middle-class voters Mr Blair has been assiduously wooing. However much he denigrates the state of the economy, many in the middle class have thought it so sound, and progressing so well, that not even Mr Blair and Mr Brown could ruin it. Now they are having last-minute second thoughts.

Against all the pollsters, and chumps like the pornographic bestseller and disloyal Tony Blair will win by a landslide. On the contrary, I believe that John Major, who has fought brilliantly, is on course for a majority of around 30-40, plus his natural allies, the Northern Ireland Unionists, who do not trust the mercurial Mr Blair.

The Menace

THE Conservative Party may have anticipated an outburst from Edwina Currie, who predicted a Labour landslide at the weekend, but Cabinet members must have thought they were safe with Sir Denis Thatcher. Unfortunately, they weren't.

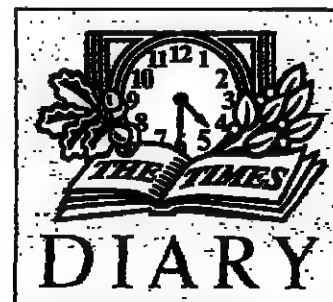
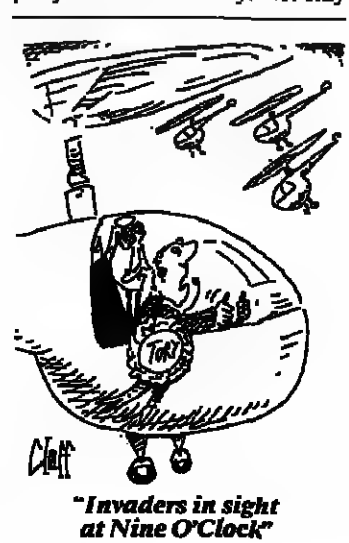
Yesterday in Hong Kong, Sir Denis dismissed the chances of John Major's survival as Prime Minister with a wave of his hand. After a lunch in the colony with some of its tycoons, he joined the Duchess of York's cigar-smoking friend David Tang for a stroll. When asked by onlookers how he assessed the chance of Major's survival in the election on Thursday, he laughed and said: "Nil". Friends of the Conservative Party suggest that Sir Denis's lively lunch had encouraged a slip of the tongue, and that he had not meant what he said. Yesterday, Conservative Central Office was not prepared to consider the unthinkable: "It's very unlikely that he said that," said one Major loyalist.

Baroness Thatcher, who took time off the campaign trail with Sir Denis to visit Hong Kong — where they were guests of honour at a party thrown by Tang — has

visited 17 constituencies banging the drum for Major. Work which, some now claim, has been undone by Sir Denis's *joie de vivre* on the eve of Hong Kong's handover.

Red Gould

LABOUR's campaign strategist Philip Gould will not be idle if the party wins on Thursday. Not only



is he being earmarked as the Tim Bell of Blair administration, but he is also at work on his inside account of the election campaign. The book has been attracting the interest of the leading London houses, eagerly searching for a British *Primary Colors*. I hear that the secretive Gould has opted for Random House — which happens to be run by his wife, the equally elusive Gail Rebuck. Nothing like keeping it in the family.

Indelicacy

RADIO 4's *Today* programme countered the tedium of the election campaign yesterday when it fielded its star interviewer, Jim Naughtie, to report on differing pain thresholds between men and women. He got the giggles, not for the first time, and struggled man-

fully to keep them under control. The rot set in when he asked two distinguished columnists, Auberon Waugh and Ann Leslie, for their views. Waugh promptly raised the notion of men producing milk from their breasts.

Naughtie then said: "Anyone who wants to volunteer to tickle Auberon Waugh's nipples, write to him and not to us." At which the *Today* studio erupted, and Ann Leslie and co-presenter Sue MacGregor disappeared under a table in fits. "Excuse me, this is terrible," apologised our hero as he stumbled into a report on BSE and dogs.

In accord

THE MOST important stars of Anthony Minghella's cast in *The English Patient* are to perform live in Salisbury for the first time since the film's success at the Oscars.

Minghella's mother Gloria and his Aunt Betty, accordion players who take a cameo role at the end of the film, have been pressed into service again. By day they run an ice-cream factory; by night they are keyboard virtuosos.

They will appear at the Salisbury Festival of Literature next month. Guests are promised a rendition of the Neapolitan and Italian Folk accordion music that was featured in the film with "an authentic



The Oscar-winning *English Patient* cast is to reassemble

sound of a non-professional pair". However, Minghella's mother, Gloria, who with her sister has been playing the accordion since she was a child, was less than sure about her debut in Salisbury: "He has only mentioned it to me in passing. I don't even know when it is. I'll cut his ears off when I see him. He is a very naughty boy."

London's Evening Standard, which rooted for John Major in

the last election, has given up on the Conservatives. In today's paper, the editorial column advises its readers to vote Labour: "Both democracy and public policy demand a change of government on Thursday." Odd. The *Barbour-clad Editor*, Max Hastings, has always struck me as being grouse moors away from Tony Blair.

P-H-S

الساعة ١٢:٠٠



PRINCIPLE NOT PARTY

A vote for Members who will defend Parliament

To endorse is, at its simplest, to write on the back of a piece of paper, an endorsement is also an approval of a specific act, a signal of a transfer of power, even a warning that a licence for action may be taken away. A newspaper's endorsement at election time is a mixture of all those things.

In 200 years *The Times* has never assumed that its readers take its advice to vote for politicians or platforms. We still respect our readers too much to make that assumption. In the past weeks we have been especially affected by the views of readers who think that we should not offer advice at all. We entered this campaign with an open mind about what and whom we would support — and we have reported and commented in that spirit.

We have also been asked by readers to respect our traditions in assessing whom we support. For some that is a Tory tradition; for others it is a more complex pattern of endorsement that deserves our respect.

Throughout the elections of this century a number of themes emerge that have resonance in the arguments of today. The first is the importance of the individual Member of Parliament. In this election season we have given support to candidates as varied as the Liberal Democrat Liz Lynne in Rochdale and Sir James Goldsmith of the Referendum Party in Putney; in the past both Michael Foot and Shirley Williams have been endorsed — whether they liked it or not — for their contributions to Parliament.

The second theme has been a preference for endorsing policy over party. We have

long preferred the principles of economic radicalism and personal liberties over the parties and people who espoused them. One of the greatest achievements of *The Times* in its youth was to escape from the partisan tradition of the London press. In the early years of this century, despite its generally Liberal instincts, *The Times* placed its support for the Union and Empire above its preference for party. In the long approach to this election we have made clear our support for the fresh air and fresh leadership which Tony Blair has brought to the Opposition; but in 1997 our concerns for the Union are with us still and our preference for global trade over continental ties inevitably colour our view of Labour.

The third theme has been the support of strong unconventional leaders. Both Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher received personal support from *The Times* at a level which their parties did not; so too did Joseph Chamberlain and David Owen. John Major, by contrast, has been a true man of his parliamentary machine. His skills are those of a whip. His proudest boasts have been for his powers of negotiation. After receiving cautious support from *The Times* in 1992, the Prime Minister lost us in the chaos of Britain's ejection from Europe's exchange-rate mechanism. In a more robust political age he would have lost his job thereafter as well; in this age he survived, despite time after time confusing stubbornness with strength and, in Norman Lamont's lasting phrase, office with power. In 1995 *The Times* called for a full-scale leadership contest, a proper test of the Prime Minister's support: the Tory party took a different view.

The fourth theme has been a willingness to withhold our support from both people and parties. For long periods there was a clear predisposition here against endorsing a government at the polls. In 1945, the election which many commentators compare to the poll this week, the position of *The Times* was notably opaque. In 1955 it remained neutral. Throughout the Sixties the volume of support for the Liberals was vastly in excess of its muted calls to vote Conservative. Our strong support of Lady Thatcher in the 1980s was, in this regard, counter to our traditions, not central to them. At the heart of this newspaper is its independence from political favour: to give up that independence even for a day is an act that *The Times* must justify to its readers and itself.

This election campaign has now just two days to run. The plays and pleas of the participants are almost over. Much of what has happened has been predictable and deeply patterned in the past. All those government ministers who have been friendly in Hackney, faithless in Whitehall — would have been as easily recognisable to Pope — and to Dickens and Orwell — as they are to the satirists of today. No less familiar are the old politicians in Taiton and elsewhere who "chew on wisdom past and totter on in business to the last"; the tired and corrupt have always been with us and nothing will change that.

Two developments, however, have been truly striking. The first is the transformation of the Labour Party under Tony Blair into a party that is both electable and about to be elected as the Government of Great Britain. The speed of this change — the abandonment of so many anachronistic and disastrous policies in so short a period of time — has been extraordinary. *The Times* has strongly supported this revolution. So great

has been the speed of change that faith and imagination, rather than firm policy pronouncements, must form the source of optimism for those millions who intend to vote Labour for the first time this week. Even in recent weeks Labour's policies on unions and privatisation, devolution and fishing, have moved so quickly that only its opinion poll lead has seemed to stay the same. And yet the Labour leader has worked hard for the faith that he inspires. We wish him well. Imagination has been much lacking in our government and we shall be happy to see it back. But we do not put our name to what is still a tower of dreams.

The second development is the simultaneous collapse of the body and spirit of the Conservative Party. While Labour has been changing itself, the very momentum of its metamorphosis has been enough to keep it together. For the Conservatives there has been no equivalent movement to keep the party upright. A tiny mandate from 1992, tightening tensions between Right and Left within the party, reactive leadership and unnecessarily prolonged recession have taken a heavy toll.

Both parties have had to deal with the question that, above all others, ought to define this campaign. Both parties, however, are divided about the future of Britain's relationship to the continent of Europe. Neither leadership, therefore, has wanted Europe to be an issue. Yet, somehow, driven by a few brave British politicians and a few careless Brussels bureaucrats, Europe has become the most invigorating subject on the doorsteps in these last electioneering days.

For *The Times* today — and for *The Times*

in the spirit of its best past — the European future is the fulcrum of public policy. A proper sense of the choices now facing this country, a profound vision of how the current moves to unite Europe could all so easily bring its collapse, a clear-sighted understanding of the gulf between what our partners say, what they mean and what they really want: that is what Britain needs to be able to vote for at this election. The divergent views on this subject ought to form the line along which the parties divide; but they do not. They form dividing lines only within the parties. In the Conservatives the lines are open and opening further by the day; this process will continue until a new leader matches the spirit of the new MPs. In the Labour Party the lines are largely closed by discipline and fear of defeat; but they may still be uncovered. Our endorsement in this election, therefore, falls not on a party slate but upon individual candidates whose European ideals we can support.

We have made our choices carefully according to our best judgments about the men and women who are standing for election. We ask our readers, however, to supplement our judgment wherever possible with their own. Our endorsed candidates are from six different political parties. Our hope is that the next House of Commons should be as full as possible with those MPs who will give strong, independent consideration to sovereignty, security and competitiveness.

As we argued yesterday, there is no easy choice in this election for those whose main wish is to endorse a policy against the further integration of the European Union. *Times* readers do not, however, need only easy options. The Referendum Party may give some simple relief from the traditional choices; but if the voter aims to make a difference, we do not advise a vote for Sir James Goldsmith's party except in Putney, where the Tory, David Mellor, is an influential supporter of his leadership's hesitant line, and in Reigate, where the former Tory MP and Eurosceptic campaigner, Sir George Gardiner, is the candidate.

More important is a vote in support of the Conservatives who have either proved their sceptical credentials already or who have been emboldened by public opinion and government weakness to declare their hand during the course of this campaign. Of still greater significance is a vote for Labour opponents of further European integration; the greater the numbers of the potential European rebels behind Prime Minister Blair, the stronger the voice of scepticism will be.

In some seats sceptics will have the chance to vote against well known supporters of integration such as Sir Edward Heath, Edwina Currie and Giles Radice. For those who wish to follow this endorsement from *The Times* these opportunities should be grasped as firmly as the chance to cast a positive vote. Yesterday we published the best list possible of those whom we would endorse in this way. In certain other seats, in Northern Ireland for example, different criteria will apply; in some there will be none. On polling day we will publish as full a list as possible, including any amendments and corrections that have been brought to our attention. In the hope that no more power be transferred from Britain, in the best tradition of our past and in the best hope for the future, this is the endorsement that we make.



Britain's future in Europe as factor in voting intentions

From Sir Patrick Cormack, Parliamentary Candidate for Staffordshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Your "Good Eurosceptic voting guide" (April 28) hardly justifies the adjective. Your leader, which does acknowledge that there is an inevitable degree of fudge in your classification, challenges individual candidates to declare themselves.

As one whom you list among the "Europhiles", I have always been implacably opposed to a federal Europe but I do believe most strongly in the need for a cohesive European Union of nation states — and an enlarged one.

I have consistently advocated the advantages of a common, or parallel, currency and expressed no enthusiasm at any time for a single currency, though I believe that the Prime Minister's insistence on Britain's being represented while crucial negotiations are conducted is entirely correct.

A number of those colleagues whom you have listed alongside me take a similar view. Among those you list as worthy of Eurosceptic support are some who would pull out of both Union and single market. Is that the Thunderer's hidden agenda?

Yours faithfully, PATRICK CORMACK, Campaign Headquarters, The First, Station Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, April 28.

From the National Organisation of the UK Independence Party

Sir, Must we really obey Lord Rees-Mogg ("How to vote sceptically", April 24) and vote for the Tory candidates opposing the single currency in their election addresses despite the official wait and see policy? I wonder whether there would have been quite that number if a pro-Euro millionaire had offered these fine candidates double that given by Mr Paul Sykes, for them to shut up on this subject and toe the party line.

Heaven forbid that the electorate should vote out of "sympathy", as Rees-Mogg puts it, for the motives of parties such as the UKIP, whilst the

opportunity exists to return Conservatives who saved the Maastricht treaty.

Yours sincerely, DAVID LOTT (Parliamentary Candidate for Hexham (UK Independence Party)), Woodhill, Otterburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, April 24.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, There must be many thousands who remain Conservative because, unlike Emma Nicholson and her colleagues (letter, April 28), we have not finally given up hope of recovering at any rate a large section of our party for its traditional One Nation, pro-European policies. But we shall be voting Liberal Democrat in those constituencies where their candidate comes closest to our ideals, and we hope to see a large Liberal Democrat contingent in the next House of Commons.

I am, etc, ANTHONY MEYER (Conservative MP, 1964-66; 1970-92), 9 Cottage Place, SW3, April 28.

From Mr David Howell

Sir, Sir Michael Butler asserts ("Europe is rooting for Blair", April 21) that "we export more to The Netherlands than to all the Asian tigers put together".

I do not know where he got this "fact" from, but it is quite untrue. The figures in *Economic Trends*, published by the Office of National Statistics, show that for 1995 — the latest available year — the total export earnings from The Netherlands for all British goods and services were £18,866 million.

From Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand — to take only some of the "tigers" — total export earnings were £21,261 million.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOWELL, Chalk Croft Farm, Penton Mewsey, Andover, Hampshire, April 21.

View from academe

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Connaisseurs of verbal sleight of hand will be lost in admiration for your lead letter today, "Academics opt for change on May 1", by tycoons from that surviving nationalised industry, academe. Like Labour's bulldog without private parts, their stirring election address omits to tell readers for whom they should vote.

Is it because the manifestos are divided between merits of two, or even more, paladins of tax and spend? Or are they leaving an escape route in case of a last-minute Tory victory or possible reproaches from potential donors whose largesse they will need whoever wins the election. Are they hedging their bets?

Can academics do no better than the stale jargon of politicians, using "investment" as a euphemism for lavish current expenditure? Could the director of the LSE at least not have considered that the early 19th-century expedient of "the active creation of opportunities for the unemployed", variously known as "public works" and "make work", by siphoning off funds from the sustainable market sector, which was and will remain the main source of employment, thereby reduces sustained employment in that sector? Surely the wealth of cautionary tales in the LSE library should discourage such aphasia. And what, pray, is actually meant by "constructive engagement"?

Is this the best our academics can do?

Yours, ALFRED SHERMAN, 14 Malvern Court, Onslow Square, SW7, April 28.

Politics and farmers

From Mr Oliver Walston

Sir, Mr E. D. Leigh-Pemberton (letter, April 26) objects to Sir Simon Gourlay's endorsement (April 24) of the Labour Party on the ground that the NFU has always been apolitical. Yet the other letter you publish with Mr Leigh-Pemberton's is from Lord Plumb, who became a Conservative MEP four months after retiring from the presidency of the NFU.

It is sad but unsurprising that many farmers appear to have no objection to past presidents being political so long as they are Conservative.

As a working farmer, I will vote Labour with alacrity and enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully, OLIVER WALSTON, Thriplow Farm, Thriplow, Royston, Hertfordshire, April 28.

Tax for education

From Mr David Hunt

Sir, Why the furore about the Liberal Democrats spending a penny on education? Successive governments have been spending a penny on education for years.

Yours, DAVID HUNT, City-an-dour Cottage, Gulval, Penzance, Cornwall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Science and art in building design

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, Whenever it seems, the Prince of Wales and building design are mentioned in the same breath we can anticipate an accompanying polarisation of attitudes and opinions.

Mr Alan Becken, FRICS, writing about the Prince's conference centre at Highgrove (letter, April 22), says that the two most important questions to ask about any construction are: "Does the new design satisfy all the client's requirements, and does the building work?"

If I were an architect I would also want to ask: "Is it aesthetically appealing, does it look good?" In other words, does it communicate other than its function and fitness of purpose? We must not assume that Mr Becken's questions automatically take account of this key criterion in distinguishing building from architecture.

Whether or not the chartered building surveyor has been considered the poor relation to the architect, as Mr Becken suggests, matters less than that everyone involved in the process of building design should demonstrate proper regard and respect for the balance between the science and the art employed. We need to encourage professional co-operation and shared ideals rather than argue the merits of who does what.

Yours sincerely, JOHN PITTUCK, Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, April 22.

From Mr H. B. McIlveen, FRIBA

Sir, There is a fundamental difference between architects and building surveyors. During a long and rigorous course of study, architects are trained to design buildings, building surveyors are not.

Yours faithfully, HUGH MCILVEEN, Bowback, Honington, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, April 22.

From Mr Dennis Berry, FRIBA

Sir, Some 15 years ago, while dean of a faculty which contained schools of both architecture and surveying, I gave much thought to trying to bring these two professional courses closer together: that is, for the architects to gain a greater insight into the economics of building and for the surveyors to achieve some notion of design.

But, even with much goodwill on both sides, the efforts always failed, largely due to the disparity in time between the two courses: seven years for the architects and four years for the surveyors. The surveyors simply did not have enough time for the inclusion of any design theory, no matter how basic.

It is true that the average building designed by a surveyor, while rarely beautiful, is never actually lethal, as would be the results of a surgeon, say, who was denied any experience of an operating theatre during his training. This fact hardly justifies the abandonment of the architect's seven years of education and his protected status.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS BERRY (Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies, Kingston Polytechnic, 1983-87), 11 Fairacre, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey, April 22.

From Mr Derek Woolland, RIBA

Sir, I would not suggest for one moment that all buildings designed by registered architects are necessarily good, nor am I suggesting that those designed by non-qualified designers are necessarily poor. However, the removal of legal protection from the title "architect", as Mr Beckett suggests, would severely limit the means by which potential clients would be able to evaluate the competence of designers.

Mr Beckett rightly stresses the importance of the architect's responsibility to his client, but fails to mention the public for whom the built environment forms the enduring "backdrop" to society. It is not solely the Prince of Wales who will be the judge of the success or otherwise of the Orchard Room at Highgrove.

Yours faithfully, DEREK WOOLLAND, 78 Ravensbury Road, SW18, April 22.

Muses maligned?

From Mr John Clark

Sir, "Despised", "vulgar", "monstrosities"... seldom have I read such wounding remarks about work by a contemporary artist as your Diary's description (April 26) of the statues of the nine muses at the Barbican Centre.

If aesthetics are the main consideration I would say preserve the muses and throw away the Barbican; perhaps functional, but surely one of the worst examples of British architecture ever.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CLARK, Old Barrack Farm, Ebony, Tenterden, Kent, April 28.

Land for housing

From Mr A. W. Tait

Sir, Simon Jenkins [article, April 19; letters, April 26] advances three basic arguments: rural England is being "concreted over"; we should largely ignore Department of the Environment projections that we need to house some four million additional households between 1991 and 2016; even if we do not, we should build all, or nearly all, the extra houses in towns and cities.

Unfortunately, the problem is far more complex than he allows. The DoE projections are not fantasy: more people live longer, the young do leave home earlier and the places where people most want to live are precisely those where he least wants them to live. Should the millions who have bought newly built houses in the country be able to deny others, including their own children and grandchildren, the same opportunity?

The good news is that we are doing quite well. The green belt has been growing, not declining. Many more houses are being built on recycled land. About 87.5 per cent of England and Wales will still be countryside by the year 2000; even in the South East the proportion will be 83 per cent.

The debate is not about whether, in the next 20 or 30 years, the proportion will fall below 80 per cent — it will not

— but whether it will be 81 or 82 per cent. The difference is important but it should be kept in perspective.

Most of England will remain rural, even though the Town and Country Planning Association considers that it is unlikely to be possible to put even half of all new houses in towns and cities. Seven major cities have told the association that they are likely to run out of land between 2006 and 2011.

A useful step might be to set up an independent "Housing Land Review Body", which would periodically encounter opinion with facts and with independent commentary on the competing claims of the pressure groups. This might help promote a higher standard of debate in local councils; it would also make it easier for government to overturn decisions where a council has been too influenced by the desire to pass the buck.

Meanwhile, though many planning authorities do a good job, increasing housing demand is leading to further planning delays and an escalation of land price. The new government will have to deal with a kettle coming to the boil.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW TAIT (Chairman, New Homes Environmental Group, 1988-90), Orchard Croft, Grimms Hill, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, April 23.

PC subsidy

From the President and the Director General of the Federation of the Electronics Industry

Sir, Several European countries, in order to maintain their competitiveness in the world economy, are considering the introduction of fiscal incentives for individuals or organisations to use personal computers and computer education.

The Swedish Department of Finance, for instance, has proposed that companies to their employees for home education and electronic commerce should be free from tax under certain conditions: the French Government has recommended a VAT reduction of 5 to 7 per cent on home PC purchases; and the Irish Government is considering the introduction of tax allowances for the purchase of PCs for home use and for payment of fees for PC training.

May we suggest that our political parties consider fiscal incentives as part of their programmes to ensure that in the future the UK keeps up with the best in the world.

Yours faithfully, K. CHAPPLE, President, ANTHONY PARISH, Director General, Federation of the Electronics Industry, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WC1, April 18.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 28: The Princess Royal today visited Lancashire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (the Lord Shuttleworth).

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Grenfell Limited, Grenfell House, Rylands Street, Burnley.

The Princess Royal later visited Chorley and South Ribblesdale General Hospital, Preston Road, Chorley.

The Princess Royal, as President, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, will attend the 50th Anniversary Awards, at the Albert Hall, at 6.30.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will attend a reception at St James's Palace for the Prayer Book Society's 25th Anniversary at 5.00, and as President, The Prince of Wales, will attend Jesus Christ Superstar at the Lyceum Theatre, London WC1 at 7.20.

The Princess Royal, as President, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, will attend the 50th Anniversary Awards, at the Albert Hall, at 6.30.

Toby Falk

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Toby Falk will be held at St George's, Hanover Square, London W1, on Tuesday, May 6, at noon.

Luncheon

Frutiger's Company
Mr Derek Tullett, Master of the Frutiger's Company, accompanied by the Wardens and Liverymen and their ladies, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Frutiger's Company, 100, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Earlier, the Master played fruit trees in memory of Lady du Cann.

Birthdays today

Mr Andre Agassi, tennis player, 27; Mr Frank Auerbach, painter, 64; Mr Jonny Barrington, squash player, 56; Mr David Bell, rugby league player, 35; Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, 55; Mr Tom Clarke, Editor, *Sporting Life*, 58; Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, actor, 40; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, 54; Mrs Ruth Denech, Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 54; General Sir Peter de la Billière, 64; Mr Lennie Donegan, skiffle musician and singer, 66; Mr D.S. Elliott, former director, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, 48; His Honour Israel Feinstein, QC, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 76; Dame Rennie Fritchie, former chairman, South and West Regional Health Authority, 55; Sir Patrick Hamill, former Chief Constable, Strathclyde, 67; Sir Kenneth James,

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Butler Trust, this afternoon visited Lancaster Farms, Male Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, Far Moor Lane, Stone Row Head, Lancaster.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 28: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, this afternoon attended a parade to bring The Queen's Trunk into service with the Regiment at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.

School news

Sibton Park Preparatory School started its final term on Sunday, April 20. Old Girls wishing to attend Open Day on June 21 and Dance the previous evening are asked to telephone for details. Sports Day is on Saturday, July 5.

Jupiter is in Capricornus and -2.5 magnitude rising by midnight on the 31st. Moon to the north on the 27th-28th.

Saturn is in Pisces and now north of the equator, rising by 02h at end May. At 0.8 magnitude it is still fainter than several of the first magnitude stars, but readily noticeable by its steady unblinking aspect and creamy hue. Moon to the north on the 4th.

Uranus is in Capricornus and stationary on the 13th. It rises just before midnight but at 5.7 magnitude requires optical aid and an atlas showing fainter stars for identification.

Neptune is stationary on the 1st and then moves from Capricornus back into Sagittarius during the month. It rises by 23h on the 31st and at 8 magnitude is rather more difficult to find than Uranus. Moon to the north on the 26th-27th.

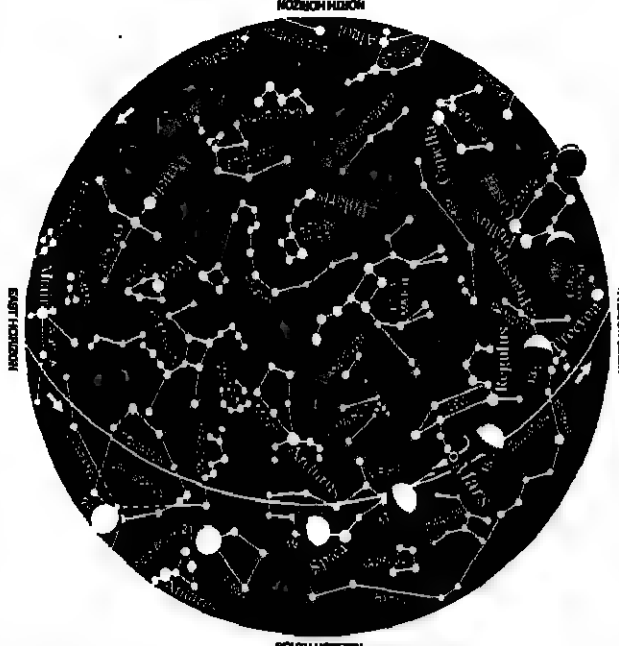
The Moon: New Moon 6d 21h, first quarter 14d 11h, full Moon 22d 09h, last quarter 29d 08h. The thin crescent Moon will be near Aldebaran on the evening of the 8th, as will Venus.

Sunset on the 1st is at 19h 25m and on the 31st at 20h 10m while sunrise is at 04h 30m and 03h 50m on the same

diplomat, 71; Miss Zizi Jeanmaire, dancer, 73; Professor David Johns, Vice-Chancellor, Brunel University, 66; Sir Anthony Loughton, cosmographer, 70; Miss Elizabeth Lawson, QC, 50; Mr Rod McKuen, poet and composer, 64; Mr Zubin Mehta, conductor, 61; Mr Johnny Miller, golfer, 50; Mr A.W. Nicol, former chairman, South Western Electricity, 64; Sir Fraser Noble, Principal, Brunel University, 76; Sir Ronald Norman, chairman, Tesco Development Corporation, 60; General Sir Patrick Palmer, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, 64; Miss Michelle Pfeiffer, actress, 40; Professor B.D. Ripley, statistician, 45; Lord Rothschild, 61; Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former leader, Liberal Party, 68; Mr David Tindle, painter, 65; Professor Heinz Wolt, biologist, 64.

The night sky in May

BY MICHAEL J HENDRICK
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23° (1 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich time which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place is east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

Astronomical twilight lasts all night from May 20 to July 22 at the latitude of London and from early May to early August in Glasgow.

Nautical twilight ends at 20h 30m and 22h 00m on the 1st and 31st and begins again at 03h 05m and 01h 55m. The brighter stars and planets can be seen between the end of and beginning of nautical twilight, and it is a better guide than astronomical twilight during the summer when it is not really dark at night, even in southern England.

Comet Hale-Bopp must be the most widely observed comet of recent times. At last we have had a comet that lived up to predictions, and was easily visible to the naked eye in twilight, moonlight and from light-polluted areas for more than two months. However for us the show is nearing its end with the comet moving steadily southwards. It will be visible here during the early part of May in the northwest at dusk but by the time it is

really dark it will be near to setting, so we will not see the comet as bright or the tail as long as it was in March and April, when it was at a good altitude in a dark sky.

The comet is now fading a little having reached a maximum brightness of about -0.1 magnitude. By April 20 it was no brighter than 0 magnitude. The tail was much less spectacular, though this was partly due to bright moonlight. Tail lengths depend very much on the darkness of the sky and even at my not very dark site have reached 10 degrees: others may well report double that length.

My prediction that Hale-Bopp was unlikely to flare up in brightness after perihelion on April 1 seems to have been correct, but the plasma tail (of ionised gases) has shown much greater activity since my last report written towards the end of March. A run of clear nights in eastern England over Easter and into April enabled me to take photo-

graphs showing great changes in the tail structure from night to night. The plasma tail shows up strongly on blue-sensitive film and on some colour films, though it does not appear as bright to most eyes which are more sensitive to the green, yellow and red. The dust tail, being composed of very small solid particles, reflects sunlight of all colours and shows up more strongly to the eye.

In the telescope the inner part of the head has shown a series of concentric arcs or hoods, like the skins of an onion (drawn by some observers of the great comets of the last century). These features change from night to night and arise from gas and dust expelled from the nucleus, which provisional reports put at about 40 km across, as it rotates about once every 12 hours. These features could be seen in quite small telescopes and in bright twilight. The main or dust tail has been sharply curved, being concave at first towards the horizon and later to the right as the comet appeared in the evening sky. The less distinct plasma tail was to the left of the dust tail and pointed away from the horizon (and from the Sun below that horizon).

Comet Hale-Bopp is now moving away from the Sun and Earth and during May its distance from the Earth will increase from 265 to 340 million km, and its distance from the Sun from 160 to 205 million km. The comet is expected to fade from about -0.5 at end April to -2.0 by end May and the tail will become shorter and fainter. The tail is also becoming more foreshortened as our viewpoint on Earth changes, and this will make it appear shorter too.

When the comet becomes generally visible in the southern hemisphere during May it is not expected to be the brilliant spectacle that it has been in the north, but it may still be the most visible comet for many years and southern observers will be able to follow it as it recedes and fades from view, not to return for another 3,000 years.

Doctor of the university: Nathan Cohen, contribution to the film industry.

Professor Alasdair McIntyre, contribution to marine biology.

William Boyd, the author, contribution to literature.

Master of Arts: Paul Greenhill, contribution to the local community and the university.

of Japan 1926-89, Tokyo, 1901.

DEATHS: John Cleveland, Royalist poet, London, 1658; Sir Alfred Hitchcock, film director-producer, Los Angeles, 1980.

Women were granted permission to sit examinations at Oxford, 1885.

A telephone link was established between Britain and Australia, 1930.

British Aerospace was founded, 1977.

REINHARD - James Spencer, aged 25, on April 24th, suddenly died as a result of a motor accident on the A10 near Loughborough, Leicestershire. James was a student at Loughborough University. He was a member of the Loughborough University Students' Union and a member of the Loughborough University Sports Club. He was a very popular person and his death is a great loss to the university.

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Memorial service

Mr Peter Langdon-Davies
The Chancellor was represented by Miss Liz Hutchinson at a memorial service for Mr Peter Langdon-Davies, former Chief Commons Commissioner, held yesterday at the Temple Church, Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated. Mr Derek Bond read the lesson.

Mr Harvey McGregor, QC, read from the *Journal of a Soul* by Pope John XXIII and Mr Oliver Knox read from *A Walk in the Mountains*. Sir Godfrey Le Queux, QC, gave an address. Among others present were: Mrs Langdon-Davies (widow), Mr and Mrs Thomas Langdon-Davies (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Anthony Rybacki (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs and Mr Langdon-Davies (grandchildren), Mr Robin Langdon-Davies (nephew), Mr and Mrs John King (brother-in-law and sister), and many friends and colleagues.

Lectures

The Royal Academy of Engineering/Royal Society Joint Lecture
Sir David Davies, CBE, FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the Joint Lecture held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London. The guest lecturer was Professor Alec Brues, FRS, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, who spoke on 'Innovation, Invention and Insight - Can we classify technological innovation?'. Institute of Biology
Professor Richard Dawkins delivered the Fourth Huxley Lecture 'Is evolution progressive?' to members of the Institute of Biology on Thursday, April 24, at The Royal Society, London. Professor Brian Heap CBE, FRS, President, presided at the Institute's 48th AGM held earlier.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Catherine Durnford, Assistant Curate, Selby Abbey, to be Vicar, New Marske and Priest-in-charge, Wilton (York).
The Rev Vivian Enever, Curate, St Jude, Stockbridge Village (Liverpool): to be Team Vicar designate, Halesowen Team Ministry, responsibility for Romsley (Worcester).
The Rev Kevin Garrett, Priest-in-charge, St Michael and All Angels, Loughton (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Dover St Martin (Canterbury).
The Rev Mike Gilbert, Assistant Curate, Chapelton, Sheffield: to be Vicar, Brightside Wincoburn (Sheffield).
The Rev Michael Goster, Vicar, St Augustine's, Endcliffe, Sheffield: to be also Vicar of St. Andrew's (Sheffield).
The Rev Stuart Goddard, Curate, Waulley Valley (Oxford): to be Associate Minister, Bowthorpe (Norwich).
The Rev Dennis Handley, Vicar, Christ Church, Liversidge, and Priest-in-charge, St Barnabas, Hightown: to be Vicar, Ripponden W. Rhydorth and Barksland W. West Scammonden (Wakefield).
The Rev David Harrex, Vicar, Pilling W. Compton Greenfield: to be also Rural Dean of Westbury and Severnside (Bristol).
The Rev Stephen Holmes, Priest-

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. Stephenson
and Miss D. Stewart-Clark
The engagement is announced between the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Stephenson, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Daphne, eldest daughter of Sir Jack and Lady Stewart-Clark, of Cowden, Kent.

Mr J.R. Byer
and Miss H.R. Cox
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Byer, of Topham, Devon, and Hermione, daughter of Mr Simon Cox, of Tomin, Inverness-shire, and Mrs Ruth Marshall, of Arlegh, Essex.

Mr B. Goffinet
and Miss S. Patrick
The engagement is announced between Brendan, son of M and Mrs Jean-Claude Goffinet, of Tongry, Belgium, and Samantha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Ollis, of Moreton Morrell, Warwick.

Mr M. Orange
and Miss D.R. Heagerty
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr John Orange, of Farnham All Saints, Suffolk, and Mrs Trissa Orange, of Wandsworth, London, and Dawn, only daughter of the Rev and Mrs Alastair Heagerty, of Kingswood, Bristol.

Marriage
Mr I.M. Shulman
and Miss S.A. Irvine
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 26, at Crown Court Church of Scotland, London, of Mr and Mrs Milton Shulman, son of Mr and Mrs Milton Shulman, of London SW1, and Miss Susan Irvine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Irvine, of Lanark, Scotland.

in-charge, Mablethorpe and Trunthorpe (Lincoln): to be Vicar, Hadleigh, St Barnabas (Chelmsford).
The Rev Harry Hopkins, Vicar, Middlethorpe, St Thomas: to be Vicar, North Thornaby (York).
The Rev Philip Jeffries, Vicar, Hornblow: to be also Rural Dean of Tisbury (Wiltshire).
The Rev Trevor Jones, Vicar, St. Saviour, Sully and Shaw Hill, St Mary and St John (Birmingham): to be Vicar, St. Peter, London Dock W. St John Wapping (London).
The Rev Stuart Lees, Assistant Priest, Holy Trinity W. St Paul, Onslow Square: to be Priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Fulham (London).
The Rev Jack Lustard, Curate, Southwick: to be Rector, Lurgashall, Lurgashall and Selham (Chichester).
The Rev Colin Midlane, Team Vicar, Haywards Heath St Wilfrid: to be Assistant Curate, Brighton Kemp Town St George (Chichester).
The Rev John Muxson, Curate, Christ Church, North Finchley (London): to be Priest-in-charge, Lynchemore and Carnesdale (Chichester).
The Rev David Peckles, Chaplain of Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London: to be also Priest-in-charge, St Matthew, Bethnal Green (London).

Fletcher's Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fletcher's Company for the ensuing year: Master, Major-General A.P.W. MacLellan; Vice-Master, Mr R. J. D. Dixon; Remit Warden, Mr D.M. Dixon.

Church in Wales

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon
The Rev Martin J. Barchelor, Minor Canon of Brecon Cathedral and Curate Brecon W. Battle w. Llandaw to be Curate of Steyly. The Rev Anne Francis, Curate of Belmont (diocese of London) to be Curate of Cocklet, Swansea.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS:
John Arbuthnot, physician, 1604-89, London, 1604; Sir James Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak, 1841-68, Borneo, 1803; Thomas Trollope, writer, Bloomsbury, London, 1810; Alexander H. Tait, of Russia 1855-81, St Petersburg, 1818; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, San Francisco, 1863; Sir Thomas Bligh, chairman, conductor, St Helens, Lancashire, 1879; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conductor, Ashford, Kent, 1895; Duke Ellington, pianist and bandleader, Washington, 1899; Michiomiya Hirohito, Emperor

University news

The university is to confer the following honorary degrees at ceremonies to be held on June 26 and 27 in Gannochy National Theatre:
Doctor of the university: Nathan Cohen, contribution to the film industry.
Professor Alasdair McIntyre, contribution to marine biology.
William Boyd, the author, contribution to literature.
Master of Arts: Paul Greenhill, contribution to the local community and the university.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

And it is in God's power to provide you with all good gifts in abundance, so that, with every need satisfied, you may have something to spare for every good cause. 2 Corinthians 9:8

BIRTHS

BATHURST - On 24th April 1997, to George and Frances, a daughter, Alice, a son, Thomas.

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DEATHS

WAKABAY

Middlesbrough troupers vital to fantasy winners



WITHOUT play in the premier leagues in England and Scotland over the weekend, the tactically aware among Interactive Team Football players looked to the midweek matches of the past week for vital points as the season nears its climax.

Middlesbrough were most people's choice for a good source of points, with two games counting — the FA Cup semi-final replay against Chesterfield and the game against Tottenham Hotspur. Hence the appearance of Fabrizio Ravanelli and Juninho in the teams of the weekly winner, the monthly winner, and indeed the overall leader of ITF.

But the "bargain buy" of the week was a Chelsea player: Dan Petrescu, with seven points to his name. Emerson, with five points, was also worthy of selection last week — along with a number of goalkeepers, none of whom conceded any goals over the past seven days.

The winner of the monthly prize, and £1,000, is Mr D. Ingham, of Oldham, who scored 81 points during April with his team Feb 2. The weekly winner is Mr D. Windridge, of Nuneaton, whose team, Croft Corinthians, scored 36 points. He wins £250.

Mr Windridge's team is:

Goalkeeper
N Martyn (Leeds)

Full backs
G Kelly (Leeds)
D Petrescu (Chelsea)

Central defenders
T Boyd (Leeds)
S Campbell (Tottenham)

Midfield players
D Barry (Newcastle)
Juninho (Middlesbrough)



Petrescu's goal against Wimbledon propelled the Chelsea wing back to seven points in ITF this week



A Sinton (Tottenham)

A Thom (Leeds)

Strikers
D Holdsworth (Wimbledon)
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)

Manager
R Guillot (Chelsea)

You can still use the ITF transfer system, even though the regular transfer system has ended for the season.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

There are no transfers or loans in Interactive Team Football this week

which allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Cup Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 886 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000 monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Cup Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennessean Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal
Saves penalty	3pts	All players
Scored own goal	1pt	Appearance
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Scores hat-trick
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Team wins
Scores goal	3pts	Team draws
Midfield player	1pt	Team draws
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	
Scores goal	2pts	

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal
All players	3pts	Manager
Sent off	3pts	Team losses

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match



Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in our 16-page Cricket '97 supplement. Call today for a FREE copy on 0171-481 3355.



CHANGING TIMES

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 886 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

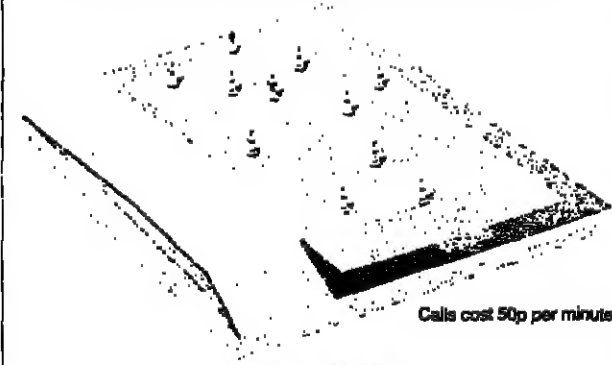
Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out		Player code	
Club			
Player in			
Club			

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	768
2	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	754
3	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	754
4	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	751
5	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	741
6	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	739
7	Nobby	(J Brown)	738
8	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	734
9	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	733
10	Bob's Boys 2	(J Calder)	732
11	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	728
12	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	728
13	Pin Up Two	(P Tuxler)	727
14	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	722
15	Nonschall AFC 3	(R J Ward)	718
16	Dour Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	717
17	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	714
18	Nobby 28	(J Brown)	714
19	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	714
20	Icarus	(B Wells)	711
21	AB 4	(A Boyland)	709
22	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	706
23	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	704
24	Daggers	(V Cox)	703
25	Jabberwocky	(P A Amoss)	703
26	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	700
27	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	698
28	Abse	(M Baber)	696
29	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	695
30	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	691
31	A	(M Corless)	691
32	Patrick Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	690
33	Nash's Ark	(G P Dolan)	689
34	Uni Boys Utd 1	(B Gardiner)	688
35	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	688
36	BCFC 1998	(J Blythe)	688
37	Blindrunners	(P Walters)	681
38	Westernash FC	(M Kirkwood)	680
39	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	680
40	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	680
41	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	680
42	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	680
43	Hunter's Mob	(C Hunter)	680
44	Skorn	(P Mills)	679
45	Scholes For Goals	(K Scholes)	678
46	Midfield Magic	(J Proggan)	678
47	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	677
48	Millie	(R Lookyer)	677
49	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	677
50	Tur	(P Turner)	676
51	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	676
52	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	675
53	Kryslanis 2	(S Roberts)	674
54	Club 15-30 Tessa	(A Robinson)	674
55	Fair Academicals	(A Kirkwood)	674
56	Jones Boys Sky	(M Jones)	672
57	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	672
58	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	672
59	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	671
60	Thom Foolery FC	(M Horan)	670
61	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	670
62	Bonny Boys	(R Crook)	667
63	Orville Classics	(J Bradshaw)	667
64	Irwin's Best	(L Sampson)	667
65	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	667
66	You're Not Very Well	(R Laskowski)	666
67	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	666
68	Gestalt	(R Rowe)	666
69	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	665
70	Abc	(M Baber)	665

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF hotline on 0891 886 643
Outside UK 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
71	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	664
72	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	663
73	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	663
74	Bob's Boys 3	(R Calder)	663
75	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	663
76	Nobby 3	(J Brown)	662
77	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	661
78	Murray's Mates	(D Anderson)	660
79	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	660
80	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	659
81	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	659
82	Born Losers	(P Turner)	658
83	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	657
84	The Dummies 1	(D Shields)	657
85	DJS 2	(D Santori)	656
86	Joking	(P Fallon)	656
87	Elanore United	(P Leader)	656
88	Doppelgangerout	(J Whaling)	656
89	Brainbow United	(G Wales)	655
90	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	654
91	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	654
92	Team C	(A Lone)	654
93	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)	653
94	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	649
95	Inter The Wallet	(M Ward)	652
96	Bubwith Utd 5	(M Lacombe)	649
97	Nobby 28	(J Brown)	652
98	Glenn Duffers	(S Wilson)	651
99	Sam Shanks	(S Shankar)	651
100	Enid Four	(J Feather)	650
101	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	650
102	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	650
103	Ball Watchers	(J Murray)	649
104	Elbey's 1st XI	(S Beldrick)	649
105	AJK	(K Hughes)	649
106	LFC Champs 9897	(B Fazakerley)	649
107	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	648
108	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	647
109	Raj Is Back To Kill 6	(R Gohil)	647
110	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	647
111	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	646

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
112	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	645
113	Vats	(K Howson)	645
114	Simba's Dream	(A Kitchen)	644
115	Inter The Biscuits	(J Brown)	644
116	Nail Madrid	(R Ralcliffe)	644
117	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	644
118	Jones Boys One	(M Jones)	643
119	Murray's Magicians	(M MacMillan)	643
120	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	642
121	Northern Lights	(C Wright)	642
122	Kinky Impacts	(J Brown)	642
123	Infantry George	(M Robinson)	641
124	Mars FC	(M Baber)	641
125	Animals	(L Clark)	641
126	A2	(K Farhall)	640
127	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	639
128	No Midfield	(J B Portwood)	639
129	MSF Monstrosities	(J Staszewicz)	639
130	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	637
131	Becard Boys	(M Woodley)	637
132	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	637
133	Burnet Boys	(A Sharpe)	637
134	Langdon Longballs	(M Ward)	637
135	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	637
136	Abdus	(I Fyfe)	637
137	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	636
138	Agepanthus FC	(W Heslop)	636
139	Come On You Rocks	(no name)	635
140	Porcelain Dogs	(A Ibbson)	635
141	Lyne's Lions	(L Horne)	635
142	Star Chamber	(M MacMillan)	634
143	Grafton Willows	(R J Brown)	634
144	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	634
145	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	634
146	Skyforest	(A Burton)	634
147	Wingless Wonders	(P Paynter)	633
148	The Far Side	(C Headfield)	633
149	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldsaw)	632
150	Diplomatic Risk	(P Pritchard)	632
151	Billy No Mates X	(M Bremner)	632
152	Miner Fantasy League	(M Madden)	632
153	S Gill Taunton A	(S Gill)	632
154	Fendon United	(E Cowen)	631
155	Bugle Navies	(D Banks)	631
156	JD 3	(J Donaldson)	631
157	Cookie's Gunners	(J Brown)	630
158	Burg Hol	(G Watson)	630
159	Ravn's Dream Team	(M Ravn)	630
160	Bob Hope And No Hope	(J Swirles)	629
161	JS August Monthly 1	(R Crook)	629
162	The Loggers	(A Lone)	629
163	The Winners VW	(P Paynter)	629
164	Patel One	(P Patel)	628
165	Raj Is Back To Kill 5	(R Gohil)	628
166	Three Tabletoppers	(M A Kennedy)	628
167	Wassack	(M Huggill)	627
168	Inter Outers	(R Johnson)	627
169	Holstenites	(D Blair)	627
170	Enid Four	(J Feather)	627
171	Havok	(P Williamson)	627
172	Vat	(K Howson)	627
173	Gondoliers	(P Paynter)	626
174	Yahoyah	(D Davidson)	626
175	Lloyd's Barge	(D Goodwin)	626
176	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	626
177	Gangsters	(A Lone)	625
178	Back In Bristol	(D Stone)	625
179	Dea Boot	(D A Sutton)	625
180	Schoko Zoo	(P Roach)	625
181	Inverness Undecided	(M A Kennedy)	625

Pos	Team	(Player's name)
182	Lynton's Lions 7	(R Layton)
182	Mapflappers	(P Reid)
182	St Bartholomew	(M Bartholomew)
182	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)
182	Dinlymo Moscow	(D Wilson)
182	Robzhaan2	(R Preston)
182	Drabs	(D Edbrookestainer)
189	The Instructions	(K Curton)
189	Daniel's Solshans	(V Cox)
189	Foxy	(M Fox)
192	Alencia FC	(A Siliano)
192	Papadopoulos Utd	(A Papadopoulos)
192	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)
192	Demolition Men	(J Murray)
192	Hannah's Heroes	(C Bennett)
192	Octus-ITF Champ	(M Sladden)
192	Sucharta	(R Keenan)
192	What Ford Splash	(N P Lewis)
192	Best Defence	(J Pragon)
201	RKV 3	(C Vanezis)
201	Supersubs	(I Taylor)
201	Dutch Courage	(R Van Ruitenbeek)
204	Grimmers Army	(S Gray)
204	Dave's First XI	(D Quibell)
204	Real Ale Ripon	(C Blackshaw)
204	Bubwith Utd 3	(M Larcumbe)
208	Tungston Town	(J W George)
208	Xpat Missiles	(M Jackson)
210	Dickens Tigers	(T Rawlings)
210	No Help From Dad FC	(A Dey)
210	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)
210	Lager Space FC	(D Mayall)
214	Bussey's Boys	(L Emery)
214	March Pass	(M McGovern)
214	Nellie's Heroes	(I Fox)
217	Robbie's Rogues	(R Pressling)
217	Toby's Terrors 7	(P Wheatley)
217	Sooty's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)
217	Totted Five	(E Kisby)
221	Roberts Team 1	(M Roberts)
222	Devlet Utd 1	(D Sloan)
222	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)
222	Solid Saints	(P Rickitt)
222	Celtic Flowers	(G Thomas)
222	GR 2	(G Richards)
222	Dodd's Aces	(C Dodd)
228	Oscar's All Stars	(A White)
228	Zendo FC	(S Kirkwood)
228	Skyline Sizzlers	(T Gordon)
228	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)
228	Deilish	(I Kelson)
233	Beam Up	(L Stratby)
233	Rubella	(T Wyllie)
233	Sad & Grim Team	(J Swain)
233	Dwyer's Tipsters	(J Dwyer)
233	Football Jumbies	(J Melling)
238	Laughing Gravy	(D Clarke)
238	Nader	(A Mewczak)
238	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swirice)
238	Jack's Nightmare	(N J Lane)
238	Twelve Just Men	(W Evans)
238	Alpspool	(C Strachan)
245	Kingsway Tn 1	(D F King)
245	Serve's Aces	(S Brook)
245	Hisham's Haggis	(H A Rahim)
245	Transgenic Eagles	(R Cooterbeck)
245	Inter-Mountford	(A Mountford)
245	Boyz 2	(R Pater)

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12	
10102	M Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+38	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10301	M Bonnich	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	+5	+29	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	+2	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-4	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	-1	+30	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-27	
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	3.00	0	-11	
10701	S Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-38	
10702	J Flann	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	+5	-2	
10802	R Hault	Derby County	1.00	0	-41	
10803	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0	-2	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+10	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-4	
10903	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.50	-1	-1	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-85	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-28	
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
11201	G Rousset	Harts	2.00	0	-5	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0	-24	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+5	-31	
11501	M Beeny	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+3	+36	
11601	K Koller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-19	
11602	K Koller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-19	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1	+19	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+6	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	
11902	S Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4	-1	
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+7	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-22	
12101	S Hlop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-18	
12102	P Smiech	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-49	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	+5	+2	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-74	
12401	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	0	+29	
12402	P Dible	Rangers	3.50	0	+10	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-7	-6	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12603	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	+5	+3	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-1	-42	
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	-8	
12802	E Stannard	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
12901	M Mikosko	West Ham United	2.00	+5	-21	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	-1	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-4	

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+39	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+49	
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+43	
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+65	
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
20304	S Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+48	
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+3	+29	
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2	+31	
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+22	
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2	
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1	+38	
20502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	0	+23	
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	+7	+27	
20602	S Charles	Chelsea	2.00	0	+7	
20603	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	0	-4	
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-10	
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-10	
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+6	
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	+4	+10	
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+4	
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	+4	
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	-1	+10	
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-5	
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0	-11	
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	-6	
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	+14	
20603	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0	-1	
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	-1	
21201	G Locke	Hibernian	2.00	0	+25	
21202	N Poulton	Hibernian	1.00	0	+24	
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0	+7	
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0	+12	
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	+4	-1	
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+47	
21502	A Dorog	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+16	
21601	G Halls	Leeds United	1.00	0	+36	
21602	N White	Leeds United	0.50	0	+5	
21603	S Grayson	Leeds United	0.50	-1	+9	
21604	F Relling	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	-3	
21703	S Bjornbey	Liverpool	0.50	0	+48	
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	0	+40	
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+31	
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	0	
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0	-11	
21902	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
21903	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+9	
21904	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	+4	+14	
21905	V Kinder	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+6	
22002	S McKean	Motherwell	0.50	0	+4	
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4	
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+21	
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+16	
22104	J Barstford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7	
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0	+11	
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9	
22203	A Haisland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+20	
22204	N Jerkins	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	-4	
22301	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-16	
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-12	
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	+45	
22402	J Brown	Rangers	1.50	0	0	
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	-3	+29	
22502	P Abbott	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	-2	+9	
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+10	
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3	
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3	
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	-4	
22602	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	+2	+2	
22603	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	+5	
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4	
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.25	0	+6	
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	1.50	0	-1	
22704	D Eriksson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+4	+8	
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	+12	
22802	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+4	+15	
22803	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
22804	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	-3	
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	0	+23	
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3	
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2	
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.50	0	+9	
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+13	
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	+26	
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+40	
23005	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+40	

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	1.50	0	+1	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+1	
30103	A Kombouare	Arsenal	4.00	0	+43	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	+41	
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+50	
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14	
30301	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	+14	
30302	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	+4	+42	
30303	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+70	
30304	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+28	



Pressman, the Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, was not the man to have guarding your ITF fortunes this week

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ov
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+32	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+33	
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	-1	+22	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	+3	+4	
30505	S Annon	Celtic	3.00	0	+4	
30601	M Dabney	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+33	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	+4	-2	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+5	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+13	
30701	L Dalt	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3	
30703	G Green	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1	
30704	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
30801	I Simac	Derby County	2.50	0	-10	
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	-4	
30804	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	+4	+12	
30805	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	-5	
30901	S Pressley	Dunfermline	1.00	0	+50	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-6	
31002	I Dan Blamant	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-18	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+12	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+14	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+6	
31201	D McPherson	Harts	1.00	0	+30	
31202	P Ritchie	Harts	1.00	0	+34	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+7	
30902	B Welch	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3	
31303	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+4	+15	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	+3	+14	
31403	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+38	
31501	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31502	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+26	
31503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31504	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	+23	
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+11	
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+8	
31603	P Kaemark	Leicester City	0.50	0	+5	
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	+1	
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	-1	+5	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24	
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+30	
31703	N Rudolph	Liverpool	0.50	0	+4	
31704	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0	+26	
31705	B T Kwame	Liverpool	2.00	0	+3	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	0	+15	
31802	D Hisey	Manchester United	2.50	0	+34	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	+21	+21	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4	+7	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	+4	-6	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
31905	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	+8	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	-18	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+18	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+17	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+5	
32202	S Cheltie	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	+14	
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5	
32303	D Craig	Rath Fovers	0.50	0	-12	
32302	G Mitchell	Rangers	0.50	0	-10	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+57	
32402	A McLaran	Rangers	3.00	0	+23	
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	+39	
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	0	+18	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+12	
32503	R Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-18	-18	
32602	A Nylen	Southampton	1.00	+4	+7	
32603	R Oridson	Southampton	0.50	+1	-1	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	-1	-1	
32605	U van Gobbel	Southampton	1.50	+4	-12	
32701	A Meville	Sunderland	1.50	0	+12	
32702	S Earl	Sunderland	0.50	0	+10	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	1.00	0	+14	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+24	
31702	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0	+9	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+18	
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	-6	-6	
32901	L Green	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+4	+6	
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	0	+10	
32902	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+11	
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	+4	+3	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+4	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	+4	+7	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	0.50	-2	-2	
33003	A Preece	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+16	
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

NEWS

72 hours left to save UK, says Major

■ The Prime Minister issued a warning last night that there were "only 72 hours" to save the United Kingdom.

After a whirlwind tour covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, John Major stood outside Parliament to proclaim the "twin threat" posed by a Labour government: the break-up of the UK and a sell-out to Europe. The event was branded a stunt by Labour, which ordered former MPs to campaign in marginal constituencies. Pages 1, 13-16, 22, 23

Currie sends £2,000 bill to newspaper

■ Edwina Currie has sent a £2,000 bill for journalistic services to the newspaper which published her predictions of a Labour landslide. Tory strategists were appalled by the MP's decision to fax an invoice to *The Express* only 24 hours after she had claimed that her comments were off the record. Page 1

Booth to sit as judge

Cherie Booth will sit as a judge within two weeks of becoming the Prime Minister's wife if Labour wins the election. Page 1

Tighter Maze security

Tighter security measures are to be imposed inside the Maze prison after a government inquiry into an IRA attempt to tunnel out of the jail found that the paramilitaries controlled the H-blocks. Page 2

Boy George accused

The singer Boy George was accused in the High Court of being an obsessive and vindictive liar by a man he had described as the love of his life. Page 3

Hounds may die

The Quantock Staghounds may have to put down 60 hounds because of the National Trust's decision to ban stag hunting on its land from the end of this month. Page 3

Minority viewing

Channel 5 is reaching only 45 per cent of the country despite promises when it launched four weeks ago that at least 60 per cent of the population would be able to watch it. Page 5

Rare rhinos arrive

Two wild Asian rhinos from Nepal are expected in Britain today for an international captive breeding programme at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. Page 5

City rustlers swoop on dales flocks

■ Police have returned a two-week-old lamb found wandering the streets of Sunderland to the North Yorkshire farm 50 miles away from which it had been taken. Lambs are being stolen by urban rustlers from their unfenced pastures and reared in the unlikely setting of council allotments. After six months they are killed for the rustler's freezer or to sell. Page 5

Cost of caring

A man who gave up his job to look after his ailing mother must sell his home to pay for her care, the High Court ruled. Page 7

Testing time

Examination pressure on children from the age of seven onwards means demand for revision guides is soaring, publishers said, as an unprecedented number of pupils prepared for national tests. Page 8

Kohl olive branch

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has offered a tentative olive branch to the next British Government and said he was certain that Britain would eventually join the single currency. Page 17

Hutu refugees found

Thousands of exhausted and dehydrated Rwandan Hutu refugees were reported to have emerged from thick forest in Zaire, about 30 miles south of Kisangani. Page 18

Forces' morality code

The Pentagon is introducing a strict code of morality for America's armed services after numerous sex scandals. Page 19

Titanic overdraft

Eighty-five years after the sinking of the *Titanic*, a film attempting to re-create that fateful night is months behind schedule and up to \$90 million (£55 million) over budget. Page 19



Salt farmers at work near Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday: the sea salt is extracted for use in food and preservative production

BUSINESS

Co-op: Hambros Bank and Travers Smith Braithwaite, the solicitor, who both advised Andrew Regan on his aborted bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, settled out of court with the CWS. They agreed damages thought to be over £1 million. Page 29

Economy: The "feel-good" factor has hit a ten-year high but consumers are crediting building society windfall payments rather than the Government. Page 29

Sears: Sears is to demerge its Selfridges department store business. Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 20 points to close at 4389.7. Sterling rose from 99.7 to 99.9 after a rise from \$1.6230 to \$1.6237 and from DM2.797 to DM2.8054. Page 32

SPORT

Cricket: Ireland were four wickets from their first win over a county side when they reduced Middlesex to 134 for six in the Benson and Hedges Cup. Page 56

Football: Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, put his squad through their paces in their penultimate training session for the World Cup qualifier against Georgia. Page 56

Snooker: John Parrott claimed a place in the quarter-finals of the Embassy world championship in Sheffield with a 13-11 victory over Anthony Hamilton. Page 56

Rugby league: Scott Gibbs is seeking a temporary release from his rugby union contract with Swansea to play for St Helens in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. Page 56

ARTS

Grimm smile: Roderick Watkins's opera *The Juniper Tree* had its premiere at the Munich Biennale and turned out to be a very British triumph, with a very Grimm fairy-tale. Page 38

Women on top: Richard Cork reviews London shows by two pioneering British artists — the macabre work of Christine Borland, and the raw self-exposure of Tracey Emin. Page 39

High old time: EMI celebrated its hundredth birthday in high style — and at steep prices — with a line-up including Hampson, Lort, Alagna and George. Page 39

Cash up front: Johnny Cash remains the rough-cut king of country, displaying his wild appeal at the Albert Hall. Page 40

BODY AND MIND

Early learning: How much should children be told about drugs when children as young as ten already have a detailed knowledge of the drug scene? Page 20

Keep away: David Charter reports on how the young are being educated about and warned against drugs. Page 20

My junkie sister: The love that connects siblings enables "clean" children to enact "tough love". And rightly or wrongly, my love does not allow me to write Tess off — not yet, at least. Page 21

LAW

Blackmail: When a private contractor wheel-clamps a car parked for only a few minutes and demands an exorbitant fee, can he be prosecuted for blackmail? Page 43

Save the children: More could be done to counter the sexual exploitation of children, argues Allan Levy, QC. Page 41

THE PAPERS

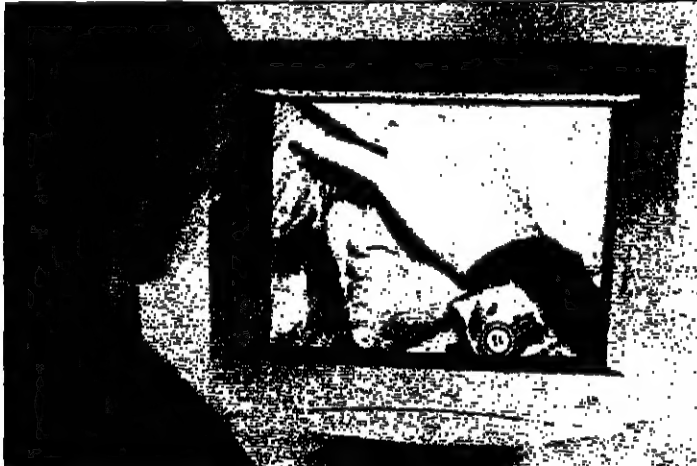
The Turkish military are a step away from getting rid of Necmettin Erbakan, who for the past ten months has led the first Islamic government in Turkey since the end of the Ottoman Caliphate. Turkey thus faces the same dilemma as Algeria in 1992: can power be entrusted to those who seek to use democracy to create an Islamic state which would then suppress democracy? — *La Repubblica*

TOMORROW

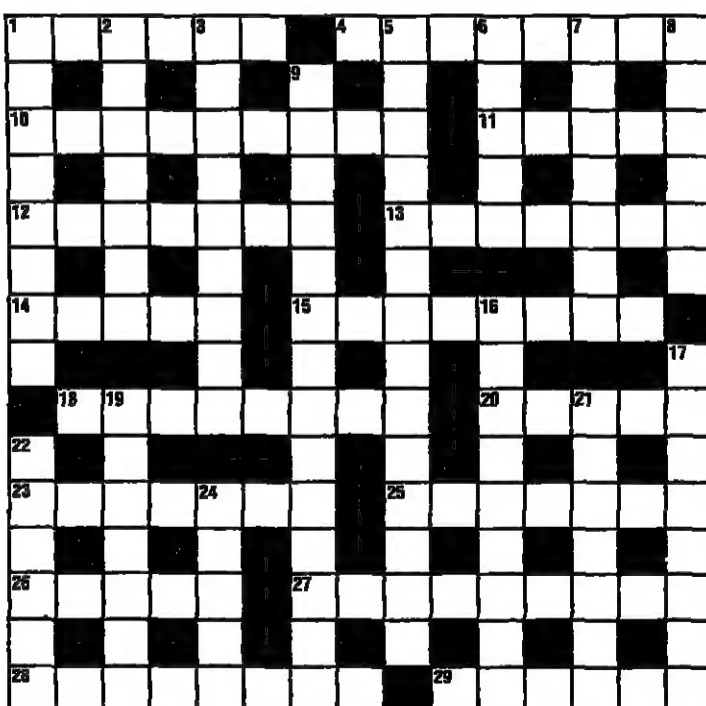
IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE
Stalkers have moved onto the Internet. Now they are themselves on the run

■ HOMES
You can do it yourself or hire professionals: either way, moving house is seldom easy



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,466



- ACROSS
- Lower or upper-class girl with a Home Counties following (6).
 - Like a good monk, taking to Bede in translation (8).
 - Maurice who was one up in France (9).
 - Loathe being trapped by Arab horsemen (5).
 - Drier in kitchen is hard to pull around (7).
 - Foreign royal visitor, fascinated by unique tree in nursery (7).
 - Flyover not opened in area of high pressure (5).
 - Angle he'll present as a dissolute old fellow (8).
 - American disaster movie seen in this? (8).
 - Critical comments for audience in show (5).
 - Crown's bare skin visible, having nothing on (7).
- DOWN
- Half-made fruit drinks for play-offs (8).
 - Favoured minor in part of garden (7).
 - Deep breath? (3-6).
 - Guides supporting construction of brick we see one side of the border (7,7).
 - Happy, perhaps, making notes about conflict (5).
 - It can be found in new ale and hot rum (7).
 - Direction keeps Henry in step (6).
 - Artistic work that needs an index (6,8).
 - A heavenly time, hopefully, from now on (9).
 - Plot dates in order to provide framework for retirement (8).
 - Part of pitch in Liverpool ground reopened (7).
 - Apparent evil besetting relative (7).
 - Jack's World digest? (6).
 - Repeating decimal? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,465

SMARM BOOKMAKER
T E R A O L I
ESTUARIES TWEED
R G C I H P E
EMBARRASSMENT
O U E B R O I
TOTS TRAWLERMAN
Y T F A I D A G
P I E B I S C I T E U N D
E R L H S I N H
F A I R H A N D S Q U A R E
F L P M R O U R I
A L I B I A V A L A N C H E
S E N T I W W U N
T A S M A N I A N K N E I T

Times Two Crossword, page 56

AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday, highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 19C
1987's lowest day temp: Llandudno, Shetland, 8C
1987's highest rainfall: Colcal Cully, Gwynedd,
0.71m; highest sunshine: Clacton, Essex, 7 hrs

NEWSPAPERS
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41.2% of the raw material for
UK newspapers in the first
half of 1996

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FORECAST

■ General: England and Wales should see any showers dying out from the west as the morning goes on. Most places will then have a dry day with sunny spells, but cloud will increase from the west later. It will be warm, with the northwesterly breeze dying down.

Scotland and Northern Ireland should be mostly dry with sunny spells. Northeastern parts of Scotland will have showers or some longer spells of rain for a time. It will be breezy at first.

■ London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England: showers dying out, then dry with sunny spells. Wind northwesterly, fresh, moderating. Max 17C (63F).

■ Central S. England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, Central N. England: generally dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh.

■ SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, and N Ireland: dry at first with sunny spells, becoming cloudy with drizzle later. Wind west or northwesterly, mainly moderate. Max 14C-16C (57F-61F).

■ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, and NW Scotland: showers dying out, then dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind northwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 13C (55F).

■ Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, and Shetland: mostly cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain. Wind westerly, moderate to fresh. Max 10C-12C (50F-54F).

■ Outlook: cloudy and damp in the west, the east dry with sunny spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 p.m. h: bright; c: cloudy; d: drizzle; ds: dust storm; du: dust; f: fog; g: gale; h: hail; hr: rain; sh: shower; s: sleet; an: snow; sa: sun; t: thunder									
City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
London	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Manchester	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Cardiff	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Belfast	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Edinburgh	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Glasgow	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
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